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# WHO Hails China's SARS Efforts

By Xiao Rong

Dr. David Heymann, World Health Organization (WHO) executive director for communicable diseases described China's SARS case definition yesterday as compatible with that of WHO.

China's case definition is actually more sensitive than the WHO standard, Dr. Heymann told a joint press briefing by China Ministry of Health and WHO, as it actually picks up more suspected cases.

Heymann was on a two-day tour to Beijing to exchange views with China on the steps that should be taken to fight against SARS and determine what support China might need.

He called the SARS information provided by China "informative and complete," and said it reflects the great efforts China has made to control the disease.

The WHO official attributed the rapid decrease of SARS cases on the Chinese mainland to the "massive efforts in mobilizing the whole population."

Five SARS-hit regions, including Shanxi, Hebei, Inner Mongolia, Jilin and Tianjin briefed Heymann Wednesday on their SARS prevention and control efforts.

"We expect to cooperate with the WHO on a broader and deeper level in the hope of improving China's public health system, building up a sound emergency response network, and strengthening prevention and control work on communicable diseases," China's Executive Vice-Minister of Health Gao Qiang said at the press briefing.

# Millionaires Come Unstuck in Hong Kong

By Shan Jinliang / Zhang Nianqing

Some of China's wealthiest entrepreneurs have attracted some unwelcome publicity recently, with the Forbes-listed second richest person in China, Yang Bin, going on trial on Wednesday and Shanghai tycoon Zhou Zhengyi being put under investigation last Tuesday.

Meanwhile Xu Peixin, chairman of the Hong Kong-listed Trend Tech Corporation was arrested in Hong Kong on June 7, and Qian Yongwei, chairman of New Wantaish Group was investigated by the Central Disciplinary Committee and the Banks Regulatory Committee on May 27.

At a Ministry of Foreign Affairs press conference Tuesday, spokesman Kong Quan said, "The Chinese side will legally handle Yang Bing's case on the principle of 'taking facts as evidence, law as standard,'" while Shanghai mayor Chen Liangyu said last Thursday he would cooperate to investigate the Zhou and Qian cases.

Xu, Zhou and Qian, all originally from Shanghai, started their businesses in Hong Kong, and accumulated their wealth by investing in real estate and the immature securities market.

"If the (stock market) supervision could be seen as a microscope," commented a *Beijing Youth Daily* report on Wednesday, "the mainland supervision could enlarge by a factor of 10, but the Hong Kong market supervision could enlarge by a factor of 100."

The Hong Kong stock market supervision could be more effective in finding financial problems, said Zhao Xijun, vice director of the Finance and Securities Institute, Renmin University. The market's financial information release and the related legal system are much stricter on investors, he added.

(See Page 3: Rich List No.2 Stands Trial)

By Su Wei

A man who once helped his terminally ill mother die is now himself dying of cancer. His request to doctors to let him die peacefully has again highlighted the lack of euthanasia legislation in China.

Seventeen years ago, Xia Suwen, suffering advanced cirrhosis of the liver, became the first euthanasia case in China, according to an article published in People's Justice of Supreme People's Court in 1990.

Xia's son, Wang Mingcheng, who requested that his mother be allowed

# A Request for Death

to die, and Pu Liansheng, the doctor who wrote out the prescription, were arrested and charged with homicide. Five years later, the Hanzhong People's Court, Shaanxi Province, declared the two innocent of committing a crime.

The right to die

It was during this year's Spring Festival that 49-year-old Wang Mingcheng, now suffering from advanced stomach and liver cancer, first made a request for euthanasia to Xi'an Jiaotong University No. 2 Hospital.

"I had no hope to be cured. The

**Drafting a law on euthanasia was first raised in China in March 1993, by Tan Yingke, professor of South China Science and Technology University, and 10 other representatives of the National People's Congress. The Ministry of Health rejected their proposal, saying it was not appropriate at that time to pass such a law in China.**

**In 1997, at the first national seminar on euthanasia, a majority of the 100 representatives from areas including ethics, medicine and law supported the concept of euthanasia.**

**However the issue remains a blank area of Chinese law; no law says that euthanasia can be practiced, yet no law says it cannot.**

cancer has spread from my stomach to my liver," he told *Beijing Today*. His doctors told him to try not to think too much. "I thought they would agree if they could not find an effective medical treatment for me."

One month later, Wang raised his request with the hospital again, when his family was told that he would die at any time. "But they told me euthanasia was out of the question. They said there was no such a law in China and they did not want to undertake such a responsibility," he said.

Two weeks ago, he talked to the hospital for the third time. "I can barely eat 100 grams of porridge a day. I cannot get out of bed or walk," he said, "They then asked me to present a written application."

It took him ten days to finish the less than three page application. Sometimes he could only write one or two lines on an entire day, he was in such pain.

In his application, he wrote, "I, myself, request to have euthanasia. I want to be relieved from the pain, to reduce the economic burden brought on my family and end this waste of social resources. I think it is good for the whole society; it is a symbol of humanity's civilization and social progress."

Pethidine, a strong painkiller, is no longer effective for Wang. He now takes morphine to reduce his pain. His medical costs since January this year have reached over 80,000 yuan. "The money was borrowed from my sisters," he said. He and his wife, Wu Lirong, laid-off workers from the Shaanxi No.3 Printing and Dyeing Mill, have a monthly living security expense each of 230 yuan.

Wang says he has been waiting for a reply since he presented his written application on June 6 this year. "If my request is rejected again, I will commit suicide."

No regret

Wang is in no doubt that he did the right thing in helping his mother to die. "She died peacefully, and was released from the torture of the pain she had been suffering," he said.

His mother, Xia Suwen, was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis in early 1986. When her condition deteriorated, Wang took her to Hanzhong Infectious Diseases Hospital, in the hope that she could be saved,

however her condition continued to worsen. "She could not speak. But from her twisted face, I could see that she was tortured by unbearable pain," he said.

He finally asked his mother's doctor, Pu Liansheng, if there was any way to release her from such torture. "He told me in other countries, euthanasia can allow a terminally ill patient in severe pain to die without suffering."

With the approval of his sisters, Wang asked Pu to practice euthanasia on his mother, and the doctor eventually prescribed 100 ml of chlorpromazine hydrochloride for Xia.

On September 20, 1986, three months after Xia's death, Wang and Pu were detained by Hanzhong Public Security Bureau. One year later, they were charged with homicide at Hanzhong People's Court. On April 6, 1991, the court decided that Wang and Pu had not committed any crime, but had violated laws based on an instruction of the Supreme People's Court on February 28 that year. Wang and Pu appealed against the decision, but the appeal was rejected.

"I am a victim," Wang said, "I do not agree that I violated the law. I thought so now, and will think so for ever."

In the following eight years, he was diagnosed with pleurisy, heart disease and hepatitis B. In November 2000, he had an operation to remove three quarters of his stomach due to cancer.

Right or wrong?

Liu Quan, information officer of Xi'an Jiaotong University No. 2 Hospital says under no condition would the hospital approve Wang's request. "First, there is no law about euthanasia in China. Second, the role of a doctor is to save lives. No one has the right to deprive another person of his right to be alive. Last, cancer may be incurable at the moment, but we hope to gain some experience through treating Wang."

Wang Honglin, former director of Research Department of Shaanxi Higher People's Court, told *Beijing Today*, "The aim of the law is to protect life, not to ruin life. When a person is certain to die, why not let him or her die peacefully? Euthanasia is a mark of progress in humanitarianism."

Nie Hongyong, a judge of the Supreme People's Court, says in the application of Chinese law, anyone who practices euthanasia on someone else is committing voluntary homicide, although the sentence for the accused may be different in different conditions. "The reason is to avoid that someone may take advantage of euthanasia to commit voluntary homicide," he said in an interview with *Beijing Today*.

He emphasized that the practice of euthanasia would have to fulfill four conditions, if such a law was to be drafted. "Patients must be suffering from an illness that is regarded universally with no hope of being cured. The patient must request euthanasia themselves, without any pressure or coercion from a third party. The period for being unable to cure such an illness must be sufficiently long. The application to be subject to euthanasia must be witnessed and practiced by a specific organization."

Zhu Xiwu, Wang's lawyer in the case of his mother's death, says what Wang did, and wants to do now, is to reduce pain as opposed to end a life, for life is certain to end anyway, within a certain period.

He highlights that the law is to protect the quality of life. "Wang cannot choose the right to be born. But he has the right to choose to die and how to die."

Photo by Hua Shang Daily



# City Reports over 10 Percent GDP Growth

By Ema Ma

Early reports indicate the economic effects of SARS may not have been as devastating as many predicted.

The Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics announced on Monday that the city's gross domestic product for the first five months of this year hit 120 billion yuan, an increase of 10.4 percent from the same period last year.

Bureau spokeswoman Yu Xiuqin said that although the negative impact

of SARS was beginning to show, the momentum of fast growth in Beijing's economy would not be reversed. She said it was still possible for the municipality to reach its goal of nine percent economic growth this year.

At the same time, statistics show Beijing's tertiary industry was seriously hit by the SARS epidemic. Only around 18,000 tourists from China and abroad were reported to have arrived in the city in May, a massive 93.9 percent year on year drop.

The manufacturing sector became the major driving force behind the local economy in May, with total industrial added value reaching 7.9 billion yuan, up 13 percent from a year before.

The high-tech industry registered an industrial added value of 11.55 billion yuan from January to May, an increase of 13.9 percent year on year.

Although SARS has made people's lives less convenient, it generally has not impacted their incomes. The average income of urban residents in May

hit 1,117 yuan, up 10.3 percent from last year. The reason, according to Yu, is "the flexitime policies adopted by most companies have eliminated pressure to cut salaries."

Even though people have minimized shopping over the past several weeks, big-ticket items have still been strong sellers in the slack retail market. One million square meters of residential property and 10,000 cars were sold in May, increases of 1.7 times and 13.7 percent from the same time last year.

## People Get Louder Voice on Law

By Ema Ma

Since last week, Beijing residents have had the right to unprecedented input regarding laws made that govern their lives.

The People's Congress of Beijing, the local legislative body, published a draft version of the 2003-2007 Legislation Plan on its official website Tuesday with the intention of generating public response to the proposed laws for that period.

People can give their comments on 58 draft laws regarding food safety, patents, private education, protection of historically and culturally significant sites and other topics, and even offer suggestions for needed legislation.

Among the specific topics of the proposed laws are forestation, traffic safety, promotion of small and medium enterprises, handicapped access to buildings and volunteer service. Details on the 58 draft laws can be reviewed on the People's Congress's website at [www.bjrd.gov.cn](http://www.bjrd.gov.cn).

The window for opinion collection will be open until next Friday. People can submit their suggestions through email at the address [zjyj@bjrd.gov.cn](mailto:zjyj@bjrd.gov.cn) or by calling 6529 1919.

## Foreign Teachers, Students Need SARS Insurance

By Ema Ma

As of September, new foreign students and teachers arriving in the capital will have to buy medical insurance that includes SARS coverage.

According to a notice released by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education on May 27, overseas students, including those from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and newly employed teachers must buy insurance policies with total coverage of no less than 400,000 yuan.

"The figure was set based on the actual medical expenses of a SARS patient, which is around 300,000 yuan," Ding Hongyu, director of the commission's foreign affairs division, told *Beijing Today*.

According to Ding, all teachers and students, except for those on scholarships provided by China's Ministry of Education, will have to buy insurance themselves through domestic or overseas firms. He added that Pingan, the insurance company recommended by the ministry, offers an appropriate policy for \$75 a year.

"SARS insurance is still not compulsory for Chinese students, as their medical care is completely covered by the government," said Ding.

The commission asked schools and universities to notify all new students, and compliance may be considered one of the criteria for determining whether or not a school is qualified to reopen. When notifying students, schools must provide information about SARS prevention measures in the school, brochures on SARS, health forms and the addresses of SARS-related websites.

As the SARS crisis has eased in Beijing, many overseas students and teachers who had left the city are asking to return, according to the commission's notice. To prevent a new outbreak of SARS, the commission has asked overseas teachers to return to their schools before the end of August.

As of March, there were around 23,000 students and 1,500 teachers from foreign nations or from Hong Kong, Macao or Taiwan studying and working in Beijing. Not one of them has contracted SARS, according to the commission.



Water flows through some of the 10 water diversion chutes of the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River on Wednesday

## Three Gorges to Float Boats on Monday



A boat cruises around the Three Gorges Dam Wednesday

Xinhua Photos

Navigation on the Yangtze River is expected to resume next Monday.

The water level of the Three Gorges Reservoir reached 135 meters on Tuesday, five days ahead of schedule

Abundant rainfall in the reservoir area since June 2 has contributed to the level reaching 135 meters ahead of schedule, said officials at the Three Gorges reservoir locks control and communications center.

They said that the early achievement of the water storage target creates favorable conditions for trial navigation through the sluice gate on June 16.

The filling of the reservoir has thus far proceeded smoothly, they added.

According to the original schedule, the water level was expected to reach 135 meters by Sunday. The reservoir officially started storing water on June 1 when the sluice gate was closed.

After 10 years of construction, the Three Gorges Project will begin to pay dividends this year, playing an important role in flood control, power generation, navigation, water diversion and environmental protection.

Launched in 1993, the Three Gorges Project is scheduled for completion in 2009. (Xinhua)

## That's Entertainment, Again

By Ema Ma

After two months of few choices other than watching TV, surfing the web or chatting on the phone, since last weekend, Beijingers have finally had some real options for recreation and relaxation outside their homes.

**Many indoor gyms approved to reopen**

Nearly 60 people were lined up at the door outside Nirvana Club, the largest fitness center in the city, before it reopened at 8 am Saturday morning. All people entering the gym must have their temperatures taken and must fill out health questionnaires, but otherwise the club is up and running almost normally.

Mr. Ren, who declined to disclose his full name, rushed to a running treadmill. "It's great to be able to start exercising regularly again, but I'll have to work back into my routine, since I've been idle for such a long time," he said.

Sixty-six gyms and exercise facilities, such as the Le Cool ice skating rink in the China World complex and the Gongti 100 Bowling and Tennis Center, have been approved to reopen on the condition that they meet requirements such as shutting down central air conditioning and limiting the number of customers inside to ensure each individual has an average of over four square meters of space.

"Because we need to check gyms for meeting anti-SARS standards before

approving them to reopen, it will still be a little while before all fitness clubs can open their doors again," said Sun Kanglin, director of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Sport, while inspecting the Dongdan Fitness Center.

**Two Towers offers new hope**

Among the worst-hit economic victims of SARS have been local cinemas. Since mid-April, over 70 movie theaters and dozens of concert halls around town have not received one fen of income. With the cancellation of all movies and performances, the local entertainment industry has suffered record losses of 40 to 50 million yuan in just the past one and a half months.

Fortunately for theaters and movie lovers, curtains started going up again at local cinemas Wednesday evening. Hopes lie on *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, the sequel to last year's blockbuster *The Fellowship of the Ring*, to bring market performance back on track.

The film was planned to debut in Beijing in late April, but was delayed due to the closing of all cinemas.

Cinemagoers around town are not going to be rubbing elbows, thanks to government policy that theaters only sell half their tickets. Many cinemas will also show improvement from the past after using the forced closure during the SARS crisis to redecorate.

**Library reopens in the rain**

On the drizzly morning of Monday, nearly 400 people clustered, umbrellas in hand, outside the south gate to

the National Library of China. At 9 am, the library reopened its doors to readers after being shut for 46 days, its longest-even closure.

All visitors must have their temperatures taken before entering, the same as at all other public facilities. People with temperatures over 37.2 °C will not be granted admission.

Other special safety measures being taken at the library include the disinfecting of all books with ozone before they are returned to the shelves.

Library employee Li Chunming told a reporter from *Beijing Youth Daily* that the density of people in reading rooms is being controlled to separate all readers by at least one seat. Moreover, disinfecting tissues are being passed out to visitors as they enter the e-reading room.

By 5 o'clock that afternoon, 10,815 readers visited the library, 12,372 books were borrowed, 12,020 books returned and almost 1,000 membership cards were issued.



An employee at the National Library of China working on Monday

Photo by Chen Bai

## Fifty Biggest Domestic Companies Named

The official list of China's top 50 listed companies was unveiled recently, with SinoPec, China Unicom and Bao Steel taking the first three places.

By the end of 2002, the total assets of the 50 companies was 2.15 trillion yuan, accounting for half of all the assets held by the 1,198 companies listed on the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges.

The list is the fifth appraisal of its kind, launched by *Listed Companies*, a magazine jointly set up by *People's Daily* and the Shanghai Stock Exchange. Companies were appraised according to four criteria, total assets, income from main businesses, net profits and market value.

The results show that the top 50 companies' total assets increased 60 percent from the previous year, while their net profits increased 20 percent, far above the average for listed companies.

SinoPec leads the list in terms of income, net profits and market value, while China Merchants Bank ranks first in total assets.

Experts say the results show blue-chip stocks have begun to play an important role in China's capital market. In 2002, blue-chip stocks, instead of ST (special treatment) stocks, became a hot item on China's two exchanges.

(Xinhua)

## China to Boast Longest Bay Bridge

By Ema Ma

After 10 years of planning, construction of this country's first trans-oceanic bridge began on Sunday in Hangzhou Bay on China's eastern coast. It is the largest domestic infrastructure project ever to use private capital investment.

The Hangzhou Bay Sea-crossing Bridge will be 36 kilometers long, the longest bridge of its kind in the world.

The bridge has been designed to have a life span of 100 years, and its six lanes of two-way traffic will allow driving speeds of 100 kilometers per hour.

Borrowing some aesthetics concept from the famed ancient Su Dyke on Hangzhou's West Lake and after careful consideration of surrounding hydrology, the stayed-cable bridge has been designed to have an S-shape, which can ensure traffic safety and decrease the effects of water currents, especially the famous Qiantang River tide, one of China's natural wonders.

The Yangtze River delta, where the bay is located, accounts for two percent of China's total land space and 10 percent of its total population, but contributes 22 percent of the national gross domestic product.

The bridge will connect areas along Bohai Bay and the Yangtze River and Pearl River deltas. It is also the largest project in the planned 5,200-kilometer-long national highway that will run from Tongjiang in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province to Sanya in southern China's Hainan Province.

Upon completion in 2008, daily traffic volume on the bridge is expected to reach 45,000 vehicles during its first year of operation.

More than half the total investment in the project, 11.8 billion yuan, came from private capital.

The providers of that capital expect to see return on their investment within less than 10 years, with a 12.5 percent to 15 percent return on investment over a 30-year period from toll revenues alone.

The bridge will shorten the distance between Shanghai and Ningbo by 120 km when it opens to traffic in 2009, creating a two-hour transportation circle between Ningbo, Hangzhou and Shanghai that will slash transport costs.

Over 80 percent of Zhejiang Province's information and electronics manufacturers are clustered around the bay, and their product output in 2002 was worth a total of over 100 billion yuan.

As policies loosen, increasing amounts of private capital are flowing towards infrastructure, education and formerly monopolized industries in addition to the manufacturing and service industries.

Last year, private capital accounted for half of all infrastructure investment in Shanghai, while in Zhejiang, China's private business forerunner, non-state-investment reached 231.6 billion yuan, making up 67 percent of all investment in the province.



# TV Manufacturers Fight Dumping Petition

By Shan Jinliang

With only a few days until the US International Trade Commission (USITC) delivers its preliminary judgment on China's color TV dumping on June 16, major TV manufacturers have separated into three groups to respond to the investigation. They appear to be confident in a favorable outcome.

In a fax to the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products (CCCME) on May 2, USITC requested that the com-

mission conduct an investigation with a view to potential imposition of antidumping duties on certain TV manufacturers in China. Seven domestic leading color TV manufacturers; Changhong, Xococo, TCL, Hisense, Konka, Skyworth and Haier are on the American blacklist.

The US petitioners alleged that a flood of imported Chinese TV sets has caused their own factories to close, and that these TV sets had been set to be on sale in the European Union, which now charges a 44.6 percent an-

tidumping duty on Chinese companies.

On May 30, the semi-official China Video Professional Association (CVPA) issued an urgent notice to the blacklisted companies, calling on them to show a united front to fight the antidumping case, as the accusation targeted the whole industry rather than individual companies.

After the USITC launched the first hearing on May 23, CCCME said the suite should be undertaken by all companies under

the lead of the CCCME, however three groups quickly came into being: Changhong, Xococo and Haier hired an American law firm to fight the lawsuit with CCCME; Skyworth, Hisense and TCL formed another team; and Konka said it would fight the suite itself.

Konka overseas division manager Yang Guohe said last week the combination of separate responses and CCCME-led group response would help their cause. The investigation will be divided into two phases: in the first

phase, CCCME will work as the representative of all the listed TV companies to give a response, and in the second phase, the US side will select three companies to test to what extent the alleged dumping is occurring.

Yang said since its company did not sell TV sets at a low price and was unlikely to be found guilty of dumping, the selection of Konka would help to offset the antidumping duties.

Changhong spokesman Liu Haizhong said on June 7 Chinese TV companies will lose one half

of the world market since the US digital TV viewers would surge from 8 million in 2002 to 87 million in 2006, and one third of Chinese annual TV production capacity of 50 million will be left unused. Changhong is the No. 1 color TV exporter to the US.

Skyworth president Liu Huiyang in charge of overseas sector said the final judgment will be made on February 7, 2004, and the impact, or the 84.17 percent antidumping duties levied on these companies could not be felt until next year.

## Watch Makers Sue Swiss Show

By Shan Jinliang

China Watch Association is suing the organizers of Switzerland's Basel World Watch and Jewelry Show for 10 million yuan.

Launched last week on behalf of a group of watch companies from Shenzhen, the claim is being sought as compensation over the refusal of the organizers to allow the Chinese delegation to attend the show, which took place in April.

Ji Qinzhi, chairman of the China Watch Association, told the China News Service Tuesday that the show had been scheduled for April 3 to 6 in Basel and Zurich, Switzerland. The organizers informed the Chinese side on March 19 they could participate in the show.

The Chinese delegation, with representatives of 16 major watch manufacturers including Rossini, Everbright, Tianwang and Fiyta, arrived in Basel on April 1. However they were unable to enter the venue the following day, because of an urgent notice from the Swiss government forbidding representatives from countries and regions that had witnessed outbreaks of SARS from participating in the show from March 1.

The association calculates that the direct loss stemming from the delegation's refusal of entry to the show amounts to US \$2 million, while a further five billion-yuan in potential orders has also been lost.

■ The Hong Kong Trade Development Council announced last week it had asked the show organizer to pay HK \$70 million in compensation for losses resulting from the ban to its watch and jewelry companies.

## Burger Prices Up at McDonald's

By Lily Li

McDonald's raised the prices of its hamburgers and milk-based products on May 28. The markups range from 0.1 yuan to 0.7 yuan and are the fast food giant's first price rise in China since 2001.

The price rises have been applied nationwide, although the amount varies slightly in different cities. In general, the prices of hamburgers, milkshakes and set menus have gone up, but breakfast set menus have fallen slightly.

Unlike previous marketing strategies, McDonald's has kept a low profile on the price changes. There are no notices about the changes in its restaurants and sales staff are saying little about them.

McDonald's Beijing office emphasized that the new pricing strategy was unrelated to recent leadership changes.

Sources from McDonald's said after investigation and research, the company found that average salaries continued to increase in China, and that customers had higher demands for a better eating environment and higher product quality.



Photos by Bqb



## Rich List No.2 Stands Trial

By Shan Jinliang

Yang Bin, listed by *Forbes* as China's second richest man in 2001, went on trial in Shenyang, Liaoning Province Wednesday. He is accused of six counts related to fraud and bribery. If found guilty, Yang could face life imprisonment.

Yang is the latest in a long list of high profile entrepreneurs to have fallen foul of the law recently, including Xu Peixin, Zhou Zhengyi and Qian Yongwei.

### A closed trial

Over two dozens domestic and overseas journalists crowded around the door of the courtroom in Shenyang on Wednesday, but only two, from China Central Television and Xinhua News Agency, were permitted to enter. Yang did not appear before the press.

A 40-year-old Dutch Chinese national with personal assets of 7.5 billion yuan, Yang, was arrested in Shenyang on October 4, 2002, a few days after he was named to run the Sinuiju Special Autonomous Region, North Korea's first free trade zone. Local media reported that Yang's Hong Kong-listed company, Euro-Asia Agricultural was involved in a financial scandal.

The six charges, dating from 1998 to 2001, include the falsification of financial documents to enable him to list his flower and property company, Euro-Asia Agricultural, illegal use of farmland, bribery of officials, contract fraud and fraudulent assets payment.

### Midas touch

Yang's career has been on an upward trajectory since he registered Poland's first private company in 1990 and made US \$20 million in two years by trading garments with China.

He returned to Beijing with a Dutch

passport in 1994 and opened what was at the time, Beijing's largest flower market, the Laitai Flower Market. In 1997, Yang acquired a land of 220 hectares of land for an eco-agricultural greenhouse, which was publicly listed in Hong Kong in 1998.

With the two billion yuan raised from the Hong Kong listing, Yang began to develop a property called Dutch Village, but following a change in Shenyang's government leadership, the land approval for the property development was found to have been fraudulently obtained. The uncovering of the land fraud led to the suspension of trade of his company in Hong Kong in September 2002 and his subsequent arrest.

Following the arrest, the North Korean government withdrew the authorization for his appointment as administrator of the Sinuiju Special Autonomous Region.

### An uncertain future

A representative of the Dutch Embassy was invited to attend the hearing, which has attracted the attention of the Supreme People's Procuratorate and the Supreme People's Court.

Yang's chief lawyer Tian Wenchang, who has defended several high ranking officials and for this case heads a six-member team, told the press after the first day of the trial that the court had just collected evidence on first day, and deliberations could start from Thursday afternoon. Sources near the court said a judgment might come out as early as June 24.

"It's hard to say (how the trial will end)," Tian told journalists outside the court before the start of the second day's proceedings.

Photo by Photocom

## Time Opposes 'Fortune' Use

By Tony Shaw / Huang Bo

The US-based Time Incorporated, a subsidiary of AOL Time Warner, has filed a complaint against a Chinese radio station over its use of the name "Fortune," which might lead to a ban on the use of the term by all media in China, according to a *China Youth Daily* report on June 5.

China Sinda Intellectual Property, under authorization from Time, filed an application in March to the trademark appraisal committee of the State Administration of Industry and Commerce to declare the name "Shaanxi Fortune Radio" illegal.

Wang Lihong, the founder of the radio station, describes the trademark infringement claim as "incredible."

### Unfortunate Fortune Radio

An Internet search easily found dozens of TV and radio programs, newspaper and magazine columns all using the name Fortune, including Beijing TV's *Fortune Line*, and Hunan TV's *Fortune China*, says Wang. She claims the reason why Time only sued her Fortune Radio is that the name had been registered.

Established in June 2000, the Shanxi Economic Radio Station employed a company to design its trademark with the English word "Fortune" above and the Chinese characters for "Caifu" below. The trademark was registered in September 2001 and has since been used widely in advertisements, documents and on name cards.

Time claims that the trademark of Fortune Radio is illegal, as the two registered marks are listed in the same No. 38 category, and Time registered both "Fortune" and the Chinese version "Caifu" in differ-

ent categories in 1983 and in 1997.

According to Time, Fortune Radio could be understood as radio about fortune, and the distinctive five dots it featured could not help consumers differentiate it from Time's *Fortune*. Furthermore, the Chinese Caifu is listed in the same category of news and information industry, although Time's registration form falls under communication via the Internet, while that of Fortune Radio comes under the wireless, radio and news agency.

### "We are innocent"

"We are the two completely 'Fortunes,'" maintains Wang. In a document presented to the committee on April 23, Fortune Radio's attorney Zhang Xi'an said Fortune Radio is listed under the category of wireless and news agency, a traditional media sector, while Time's *Fortune* is listed under communication via the Internet; they are clearly different in service pattern, communication means and service carrier.

Zhang stressed that it is universally acknowledged that Chinese law does not allow foreign businesses to operate radio and news agencies, and that it is unreasonable to say consumers would confuse the two Fortunes as one company.

### Just for trademark protection?

Zhang said, "If the committee rules in favor of Time, no TV, radio, newspaper or magazine programs or columns throughout China would be unable to use the name 'Fortune.'"

As Fortune, or Caifu is a widely used term in Chinese, he speculates that Time has filed the complaint as a strategic move, seeing an opportunity to raise its profile.

## Medicine Giants Merged

By Shan Jinliang

China's No. 1 western medicine company, China National Pharmaceutical Group, or SinoPharm will complete its acquisition of the largest traditional Chinese medicine producer and distributor, China Medicine Material Group by the end of this month.

The move marks an important step in broadening access to overseas markets for traditional Chinese medicine, and is also seen by media analysts as a measure to prepare for intensified competition from overseas pharmaceutical companies.

For the past decade, traditional Chinese medicine and western medicine have been supervised by two separate

government departments, and the two national traditional Chinese and western medicine companies have run independently.

They have separate marketing networks, resulting in considerable overlap in wholesalers and retailers, described as unnecessary and a big waste of resources by SinoPharm corporate planning director Zhu Jingjin in an interview with *Beijing Today* Tuesday.

The acquisition could boost the competitiveness of China's pharmaceutical sector and speed up the export of traditional Chinese medicine, according to Qin Zuhui, the group's vice general manager.

## Largest Auto JV Established

By Shan Jinliang / Zhang Yaodong

China's biggest auto joint venture Dongfeng Motor Corporation Limited was established Monday in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province, and will go into operation on July 1.

With 16.7 billion yuan (US \$2 billion) registered capital, the new company is equally invested by Japan's Nissan Motors and Dongfeng Motors. It will be China's first auto manufacturer producing full-series trucks, cars, light commercial vehicles and crew vehicles.

Together with China First Automobile Works (FAW) and Shanghai Automobile Industry Corporation (SAIC), Dongfeng Motor will form the basis of China's auto industry collaboration



with overseas counterparts.

Dongfeng Motor president Miao Xu said the first offspring of the union, the Sunny, will roll off the line next week, and could go on sale from July 1. The Teana will start production in 2004. A report in Tuesday's *Beijing Youth Daily* predicts the Sunny will retail for around 180,000 yuan, targeting the middle-class.



# \$300 Billion Bonanza Awaits East Asia

SINGAPORE, June 6 (AFP) - East Asia must shift its focus when negotiating free-trade pacts to opening up its agriculture and services sectors if it wants to reap \$300 billion in annual benefits and reduce poverty, the World Bank said.

As the region moves towards closer trade and economic links through bilateral or regional accords, economies must at the same time take steps to streamline customs procedures and build the infrastructure needed to ease the flow of goods, the bank said.

“Our tariffs are already quite low in the region on trade in goods. And so the scope for additional gains by pushing them down still further is more limited,” said Homi Kharas, who co-edited the study on East Asian integration.

The bank identified five focus areas for liberalization for the region to achieve the biggest benefits: agriculture, services, logistics, trade facilitation and linking trade policy to development policy.

If countries in the region implement these liberalization measures in the sectors identified, they stand to reap annual benefits of roughly \$300 billion within a decade.

## China's challenging new leading role

East Asian integration is facing a number of obstacles.

First, lack of willingness to develop a strong alliance like the EU. After thirty years of building, ASEAN is still a mechanism for trade and economic benefits, rather than a consolidated union comprising fields of politics, diplomacy, investment and technology development.

Both China and Japan are unwilling for the other to be the leader of the regional integration process and they are concerned by the response of the US towards integration.

Strong nationalism in the countries and regions in East Asia is another big obstacle to regionalism. There is also a historic lack of trust, based on memories of Japanese occupation and worries over the “threat of China.”

Last but not least, most of the members of the region are still heavily dependent on the US in all aspects, such as market, investment, technology and military security.

— Pang Zhongying, Institute of International Studies, Tsinghua University

East Asia is facing three inevitable trends and two challenges.

The three trends are increasing regional integration, the emerging importance of the role played by China, and a new civilized society brought by political reforms.

The two challenges are development and peace, and badly needed improvement in the investing environment.

— World Bank vice president for East Asia and Pacific, Jemal-ud-din Kassum

pan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the 10 members of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Singapore has signed free-trade deals with the United States, Australia, Japan and New Zealand and is in talks with several other countries.

A proposed free-trade area between ASEAN and China aimed for completion within the decade promises to be the world's largest free-trade zone covering 1.8 billion people and a combined GDP of two trillion dollars.

ASEAN also plans a similar economic partnership with Japan and there is talk about an East Asia-wide free-trade zone.

## Iraq Sees Delay in Resuming Oil Output

BAGHDAD, June 9 (Dow Jones Business News) - Iraqi oil officials again pushed back a target for the resumption of significant crude-oil production and exports as efforts to restart the country's oil industry continue, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Thamer Ghadhban, the US-installed interim head of the oil ministry here, said he expects Iraq to reach total production of 1.5 million barrels a day by the end of the month, with about one million barrels available for export. Ghadhban said it may take until the middle of next year for Iraq to ramp back up to prewar production levels.

(Keith Johnson)



The Taco Bell chihuahua is shown in this advertisement for the Taco Bell fast food restaurant chain. Reuters Photo

## Taco Bell Stuffed by Chihuahua Men

WASHINGTON, June 5 (USA Today) - A federal jury awarded two marketers more than \$30 million in their lawsuit claiming that Taco Bell took their idea for a talking Chihuahua, the dog named after the Chihuahua state of Mexico.

The lawsuit, by Joseph Shields and Thomas Rinks, charged Taco Bell with failing to pay for use of the Chihuahua character they created.

Taco Bell said it would appeal against the decision. (Theresa Howard)

## NBC Wins Rights to 2010, 2012 Olympics

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, June 7 (AP) - NBC secured the US rights to the 2010 and 2012 winter and summer Olympics in a \$2.2 billion deal.

NBC and its parent company, General Electric, were picked by the IOC over bids by Disney's ABC-ESPN and News Corp.'s Fox.

NBC will pay \$2 billion in direct rights for the two Olympics - \$820 million for the 2010 games and \$1.181 billion for the 2012 games.

General Electric will also pay from \$160 million to \$200 million to join the IOC's global TOP sponsorship program for the two-games period. (Stephen Wilson)



A vintage Volkswagen Beetle AP Photo

## Volkswagen to Stop Making Original Beetle

BERLIN, June 7 (AP) - Volkswagen said it will stop making the original rear-engine Beetle later this year, bringing the curtain down on the nearly 70-year history of the classic “bug.”

The first Beetle was developed in 1934 under the guidance of Adolf Hitler, who wanted to build a “people's car” - or in German, a Volkswagen.

Volkswagen sold more than 21 million of the cars over the decades.

Production of the last old Beetles at the VW plant in Puebla, Mexico, will “end this summer,” spokesman Fred Baerbock said.

## Japan's Foreign Reserves Hit Record High

TOKYO, June 6 (AFP) - Japan's foreign exchange reserves rose in May by 43.6 billion dollars from the previous month to a record 543.1 billion dollars, after the Bank of Japan actively bought the dollar on the foreign exchange market to drive down the yen, Japan's Ministry of Finance said.

“The Bank of Japan used around four trillion yen (33.9 billion US dollars) for its market intervention,” a finance ministry official said.



## Hallo, Jakarta!

A cocktail waiter is performing his skills while serving customers in Jakarta, Indonesia, June 11.

After terrorist attacks, SARS and the war against the separatism in Aceh province, Indonesia is struggling for a recovery of its tourism.

June 22 marks the anniversary of the establishment of Jakarta. The city held a number of celebrations this week aiming to attract more tourists and stimulate consumption.

Xinhua Photo

## Amex Sold for \$110 Million

CHICAGO/NEW YORK, June 2 (Reuters) - After more than two years on the auction block, the 82-year-old American Stock Exchange (Amex) will soon be facing life with a new owner.

NASD (National Association of Stock Dealers), parent of the American Stock Exchange and the Nasdaq Stock Market, said on Monday it had agreed to sell Amex - the No. 3 US stock exchange - to Chicago-based private equity firm GTCR Golder Rauner LLC for roughly \$110 million.

NASD, however, will not realize any gain from the sale because it will use the proceeds to meet a prior obligation to invest \$110 million in the exchange's infrastructure and operations.

The deal comes as the stock and options exchange has found itself a distant third behind its larger rivals on the equities front. While the New York Stock Exchange lists close to 2,800 companies and the Nasdaq Stock Market lists roughly 3,500, Amex



Photo provided by Amex

lists about 600 names.

A seat on the NYSE last sold for \$1.5 million, while a regular seat on Amex recently fetched \$130,000.

In addition to listing stocks and options in a floor-

based auction market, Amex pioneered the creation of exchange-traded funds. But in the past few months, it has seen its market share in equity options business decline. Amex moved from No. 2 to No. 3 in equity options volume in January.

When NASD purchased Amex in 1998, it billed the merger as a way to lower fees for investors who wanted their shares to trade on Amex, which uses a floor-based auction system, or the Nasdaq Stock Market Inc., where traders compete for orders electronically.

But amid rising competition from electronic trading venues and changing market conditions, the benefits of the deal failed to materialize. In 2000, NASD began the process of spinning off Nasdaq and later put Amex on the block, saying it wanted to focus solely on regulation.

Industry sources familiar with the talks said the purchasing deal is expected to be signed within 60 days. But the deal is still subject to approval from the US Securities and Exchange Commission, the boards of Amex and NASD, and the Amex membership, and could take months to complete.

(Doris Frankel and Nicole Maestri)

## Super Shopping Saturday for Germans

FRANKFURT, Germany, June 7 (AP) - Shoppers showed more enthusiasm than retailers Saturday for a fiercely resisted new law that lets German stores stay open a little later during the weekend.

For decades, Germans have scrambled to get their grocery and other shopping done before stores closed for the weekend at 4 pm.

But that changed Saturday, when a law took effect extending the mandatory closing time to 8 pm, as it is every other day except Sunday, when shops are closed altogether.

In a country where free time is considered sacred - shoppers are often chased out of stores up to 10 minutes before the actual closing time to ensure that cashiers can leave work punctually - critics said Germans would not be interested in spending their Saturday afternoons shopping.

Yet managers in stores in northern and central cities, including Frankfurt, Dresden, Hamburg and Dusseldorf, said initial indications were that a steady stream of shoppers kept registers busy all day.

“People have understood that they can sleep in and go shopping in the late afternoon,” said Ulrich von Malotki, manager of the Galeria Kaufhof department store in Dusseldorf.

For Nora Austin, a single mom in Frankfurt who lived for several years in London, the longer hours were a long-awaited

respite from the usual Saturday morning crush.

“I think it's about time that Germany finally changed this,” she said. “I hated the fact that on a Saturday I had to go out in the morning and then wait in the really long queues in the supermarkets.”

However, in more conservative southern cities, including Munich, Stuttgart and Wiesbaden, managers said stores tended to empty out around 4 pm as usual. They blamed the sunny weather, a three-day holiday weekend and a European Cup qualifying soccer match between Germany and Scotland, which began at 4 pm.

The law was designed to stimulate Europe's largest economy, which is on the brink of recession. But it met with fierce resistance from unionized store workers and some shopkeepers.

According to HDE storeowners association, an estimated 60 percent of shops planned to stay open later. But of those, many closed at 6 pm instead of 8 pm.

“We are living in a world based on competition,” the association's president Hermann Franzen told German radio. “We want to have the freedom to open our shops according to customers' needs.”

The shopping day used to be even shorter in Germany. As recently as 1996, the law mandated a 2 pm close on Saturday and 6:30 pm during the week. (Melissa Eddy)



Customers pass posters advertising new shopping hours as they leave a shopping center in Dresden, Germany, June 7, 2003. For the first time, shops in Germany were allowed to stay open on Saturday until 8 pm. AP Photo

## Consolidation and restructuring in global stock exchanges

This shows that in a sophisticated market, everything except market rules can be transacted. As a venture, a stock exchange itself is a commodity and can be publicly listed, if possible and needed.

Like many other industries, stock exchanges around the world are seeing a trend towards mergers for a better and more competitive market position. A number of stock exchanges in London have been discussing consolidation. The stock exchanges of France, Belgium and Holland are doing the same. NASD wanted to combine Nasdaq with the New York Stock Exchange in the 1990s but failed. NASD purchased Amex in 1998 for the same purpose. It failed again this time.

Stock exchanges can be divided in two categories: membership exchanges and corporate exchanges. The first type is hard to restructure while the second is more flexible and aggressive, like Nasdaq, but needs tighter supervision and higher self-discipline.

In China, the only two exchanges in Shanghai and Shenzhen are membership exchanges. With more enterprises waiting for public listings, it is inevitable that corporate exchanges will emerge in China. But it is hard to say when.

— Zhao Xijun, professor of finance and securities, People's University of China



# Student Benefits from New Deferred Verdict System

By Sun Ming

Of the millions of students who took the university entrance examination last weekend, Li Juan (pseudonym), 18, a graduate of a key high school in Beijing, was a special case, as she is awaiting both notice of university acceptance and judgment on a theft charge.

Li is the first dependent in the city to benefit from the new system of deferred verdicts initiated by the Fengtai District People's Court this year.

According to that court, Li stole a portable CD player left on another student's desk on May 23 last year. She was easily marked as the main suspect in the theft because she was the only student not to out to drill

that day, and the CD player disappeared during the break.

Li not only admitted to the Fengtai police that she stole the CD player, worth around 3,000 yuan, she also confessed to stealing a mobile phone from her school's playground in September last year. She tried to sell the phone in order to have the money to buy a CD player, but the mobile phone was later stolen from her.

On February 13 this year, Fengtai District People's Procuratorate brought a lawsuit against Li, as theft of items valued over 3,000 yuan is considered a criminal infraction. The Fengtai court began hearing the case against Li on February 17.

Guo Nan, one of the judges in Li's case, told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday that Li's teachers said she is considered a good student, except for the theft, and has the potential to go to university.

"No university will accept her if she is judged guilty. Considering she returned the CD player in the end and freely admitted her guilt to the court, we deferred our verdict until she finished the important exam," said Guo.

The Fengtai District People's Court launched the new verdict deferral system, targeted only at juveniles under 18 years old, this January. The system has not been picked up by other district courts in Beijing, but has been used by

some courts in Shanghai.

Guo explained that the system of deferred verdicts is only intended for use regarding juveniles who commit minor crimes. In such cases, the court can defer a verdict for three months to one year. Defendants that show good behavior during that period can be exempted from criminal penalties or have their penalty lessened.

The judge revealed that Li may be eligible for exemption from criminal penalty on the grounds of her good behavior the past three months. "It would be good if other courts also used the system, because it gives juvenile delinquents another chance to get their lives on track or start again," added Guo.

## Let's Talk about Sex

By Ena Ma

"How often do you have sex?" "Have you ever had a one night stand?" "What is your favorite sexual position?" These are questions that are sure to bring a blush to the faces of most people in China, a country that could be called traditional about sexuality. Yet these were exactly the kinds of queries asked of young Chinese as part of the Global Sex Survey that started on May 26.

The survey, sponsored by SSL International, producer of Durex, the world's number one condom brand, has been run for seven years and this is the second year it is mostly Internet-based.

Around 50,000 sexually and non-sexually active adults took part in the youth-focused survey last year, and responses were analyzed according to sex and age to give a detailed picture of behavioral differences between cultures.

Zhang Bin, public relations manager at Qingdao London International Latex, a domestic joint venture in which SSL International holds a 50-percent stake, gave *Beijing Today* more details about the survey during a telephone interview.

"China has been included in the survey since 2000, after Qingdao London International Latex was established in 1999. But, we kept a low profile that first year, just passing out some questionnaires on the streets of five major cities, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Wuhan and Chengdu," she said.

According to Zhang, a press conference held by the company after the 2001 survey made headlines nationwide, "showing people still cannot deal with sexual activity as a serious issue."

Last year, the survey method was changed from paper questionnaires to a more extensive website-based format. However, there was no corresponding Chinese website set up, so the sample pool from this country was too small to draw any meaningful conclusions, she said.

Zhang continued, "We expect more Chinese to take part now that a Chinese website has been constructed this year. Furthermore, some features that will directly appeal to people in this country have been added in this year's questionnaire."

Among the new items are questions such as "Who is the sexiest male/female celebrity?" and "Who is the sexiest male/female movie star?," with participants choosing from lists including Maggie Cheung, Yao Ming, Zhang Ziyi, Ferren Lee and Li Yundi. Another added item with obvious domestic appeal is "Sexiest dialect in China," with 14 possible answers.

"More than 20,000 Chinese have taken part in the online survey," Zhang told *Beijing Today* on Thursday. "With China's involvement, we figure this will be the largest ever global sex survey, covering 36 countries."

The survey will end in late July and the final results will be announced at the end of September.



Photo by Fan Jiwen

## School Hosts Exam for One

By Lily Li

The 20-meter-long corridor in the Zhongguancun No.1 Primary School in Haidian District connecting the gate with a room used for the university entrance examination was decorated with colorful strings, Chinese knots, red lanterns, paper cranes and scrolls reading "May You Succeed" on June 7 and 8.

Surprisingly, the site was used by only one examinee, Zhang Chun from the Fuchenglu Middle School.

Zhang was one of the two test takers put into quarantine in special isolated exam sites, arranged by the Beijing Education Committee. The other quarantined test zone was set up at the Beijing 154 Middle School.

Zhang's entire family was put under quarantine after her mother had incidental contact with a SARS patient when she saw a doctor at a local hospital on May 29. On June 5, the girl's school reported the family's situation to the Haidian Education Committee, which promptly set up the special examination spot.

## Test Tension Takes Toll on Boy

By Lily Li

A young man on his way to the Jingshan Middle School to take the national university entrance examination fainted and suffered a seizure at 2:25 pm on Sunday. Policemen on duty near the school, teachers, passers-by and doctors in a SARS emergency vehicle posted at the school spent 25 minutes trying to protect and revive the boy, who then came to his senses and was sent to a special spare exam room, where he completed the rigorous test.

Liu Wenwu, head of traffic police in Shuai Fuyuan, Haidian District and who was

in charge of patrolling the middle school, saw the boy collapse. According to Liu, the student was riding his bike, accompanied by his father, and fainted 40 meters from the school's gate.

Liu rushed over to the boy, then called the emergency vehicle and dialed 120 for an ambulance. School doctors, three traffic police who were nearby and some other police officers from Donghuan station rushed to the scene and began administering care and oxygen to the unconscious boy.

Guo Shirui, one of those who helped the boy and father

of another examinee, said the boy was very strong-willed and was determined to take the exam as soon as he regained consciousness. The emergency vehicle took him the rest of the way to the school, which had opened a special exam room for him. Throughout the test, a city ambulance parked outside the school in case of further problems.

According to the school doctors, the boy fainted because of nervousness and tension. In the end, said Guo, the young man was lucky. "If the police and doctors had not arrived so quickly, he surely would have missed the exam," he said.

## Parents of Fire Victims Demand Compensation

By Sun Ming

The parents of nine young victims of the fire that killed over 20 people at the Lanjisu Cyber Café in Beijing last year filed a joint lawsuit against the operators of the Internet café on Thursday last week.

The group of 18 parents is seeking a total of 720,000 yuan in compensation from the café's two operators, who are still serving their jail sentences.

The fire at Lanjisu, which broke out at 2:40 am on June 16 last year and left 25 dead and 13 injured, made headlines around the country. Most of the victims of the tragedy were college students.

Investigations of the event found that the fire was intentionally set by two teenage boys, aged 13 and 14, seeking revenge against the staff at Lanjisu, who would not let them use the computers. The boys were later put on trial for arson, but were not punished because Chinese criminal law exempts people under 14-years-old from criminal responsibility.

Zheng Wenjing and his girlfriend Zhang Minmin, the two operators of the Lanjisu cyber bar, were sentenced to imprisonment in April this year for running an unlicensed facility. Zheng was given a three-year jail term and fined 300,000 yuan, while Zhang was sentenced to 18 months in prison and a fine of 200,000 yuan.

Now they are the plaintiffs in the civil lawsuit filed by the parents, who is demanding compensation for their children's deaths and funeral expenses.

The indictment filed by the parents with the Beijing Haidian District People's Court reads that the Lanjisu Cyber Café not only operated illegally without a license, but also was not equipped with fire control facilities in keeping with fire safety standards.

After the tragedy at Lanjisu, Chinese authorities cracked down on all illegal Internet cafes and licensed net bars that failed to meet fire safety standards in major cities around the country.

"All the windows at the Internet café were tightly barred and the only door was locked, which made it impossible for the victims to escape the fire," continues the indictment. "Zheng and Zhang did not properly handle the conflict with the teenage boys who set the fire, leading to the tragedy. So, the victims' deaths are directly connected to the two operators."

The parents also accuse Zheng and Zhang of allowed people under 18-year-old to enter their establishment, violating administrative regulations for Internet cafés.

The Haidian District People's Court has accepted the lawsuit and hearings are expected to begin in the near future.

## Ancient River Found in Suburb

By Sun Ming

A 1.5 billion-year-old river running through the belly of a mountain was found by some farmers in a suburb near Beijing, according to a report issued by the news office of the Pinggu County government on Monday.

The ancient river, which cuts through the center of Motuo Mountain, is around 1,500 meters long, three meters at its deepest point and one meter at its most shallow.

"The river was discovered completely by accident by several villagers from Zhangzuo village, Pinggu District in December last year," Liu Zhiyuan from the news office told *Beijing Today* by phone.

On 15 December last year, Wang Xiaochun, Liu Yu and two other residents of Zhangzuo village saw a badger on Motuo Mountain and ended up chasing it into a cave.

"They spent the whole night trying to smoke the badger out of the cave, which was around two meters in diameter, but it never came out," said Liu.

The tired farmers got a greater surprise the next morning, when they saw smoke emerging from some other caves around the mountain.

Wang decided to crawl into the cave with a flashlight to investigate. Less than 50 meters from the mouth of the cave, he saw a flowing river, bordered on both sides by stalactites, stalagmites and other rock formations.

"According to tests conducted by experts from Chinese University of Mining and Technology, the river and the water-eroded cave were formed around 1.5 billion years ago," said Liu. "Also, all the stalactites and stalagmites along the river are still active."

Further exploration showed the river can be followed for over 1,200 meters from the mouth of the cave. The Pinggu District government is planning on investing nearly 6 million yuan to develop the site into a tourist attraction. Development work began earlier this year and is expected to be finished before 2004.

## Birds Flock to Island Aviary

By Lisa Lee

A huge aviary will be set up on an island in Jinhai lake in Pinggu District this summer, creating a beautiful natural scene for Beijing residents to observe and enjoy their feathered friends.

More than 300,000 water birds of 150 species will be raised and introduced in the island, called the Jinhai Waterfowl Exposition Park. Nearly 70 kinds of birds have already been moved

to their new home, and the rest will be released onto the lake next year.

The Waterfowl Exposition Park is the key program in an overall plan for the area that also calls for the construction of the Jinhai International Safari Park, Ocean Park and Tropical Rainforest Park. The overall design of the park has been finished and construction is set to begin in September.

## Killer Surrenders to Police



Photo by Shao Hua

By Sun Ming

A local man who had frequently threatened to sue the police in his community in the past turned himself in to the authorities last week after committing a gruesome murder.

Sun Yuanquan, 38, head of a private print machine manufacturer in Beijing, had a reputation for a bad temper, often fighting

with clients and even shouting at the police when they came to mediate such conflicts. Nearly all the officers at the Nanyuan Police Station knew Sun before he surrendered last Thursday evening.

Sun told policemen that literature, women and alcohol are the most important things in his life, according to the police report on the case. However, the latter two were behind the cruel killing he committed last Wednesday.

That evening, Sun, half-drunk, went to a barbershop in Fengtai District that is actually an underground brothel he frequented.

After receiving a massage from Wang Hua (pseudonym), 18, he gave 400 yuan to the boss of the barbershop and then took Wang out. Sun was one of Wang's regular customers.

The two took a taxi to Sun's

apartment in Nanyuan, Fengtai District at midnight. However, Sun was unable to have intercourse, as he was too drunk. Wang demanded he give her 50,000 yuan before she left. Sun agreed only to give her 100 yuan, since they did not have sex and he had already given 400 yuan to her boss.

The police report quotes Sun as saying, "She then threatened to tell my staff about our relationship, and that sobered me up immediately."

Sun continued that he tried to force Wang out of his apartment, but when he pushed her, she fell beside a table on which there was a kitchen cleaver.

"She grabbed the cleaver and tried to hit me with it, so I threw a chair at her and she let go of the knife. Then when I turned around, she was holding the cleaver again, and that made me really angry," he said, according to the report.

Sun then grabbed the cleaver

from Wang and attacked her with it, inflicting many blows and eventually decapitating her.

"When we asked him why he was so cruel, he answered that he hates prostitutes very much because they only know money, money and money," Shao Hua, a police officer involved in Sun's trial, told *Beijing Today*.

Thursday morning, Sun told his wife, Liu Ying (pseudonym), in Shandong Province at the time, about the murder on the phone. Sun told police that he respected his wife, who had forgiven him for having relations with other women many times in the past.

That evening, Liu drove back from Shandong and met Sun at a highway exit in Beijing. He got in the car and she drove him directly to the Nanyuan Police Station.

Sun's case is still under investigation and "he might not evade the death penalty," said a police officer who requested anonymity.



# A Special Case?

## People petition court to commute murderer's death sentence

By Chen Ying

Xu Jianping, 45, killed his wife Ding Xia on May 26 last year and was sentenced to death by Shaoxing Intermediate People's Court this April. But during his trial, about 200 people wrote to the court pleading for leniency since Xu had made great contributions to the national textiles industry.

Xu had always lived in Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province. He was once a technician in a local state-run textiles factory. After he resigned in 1994, he established a textiles company named Jinchang Computer Printing Design and Plate-making Center. The company was renamed Shaoxing Textiles Science & Technology Center in 1998 when his wife Ding Xia joined the company. Xu was the general manager of the company while Ding was the chairwoman.

The couple often quarreled about work. Nobody except Xu knows exactly what happened on the night of May 26, 2002. Xu confessed that he had drunk a lot before going home. He said his wife started talking about work just as he was about to go to sleep. Soon they started quarreling, he said, and Ding slapped Xu twice. Xu fought back.

Xu said he pushed Ding down onto the bed and hit the back of her head with a cup. Soon, she was suffocated. Being drunk, Xu did not notice his wife's condition so he went to sleep. Only later did he realize she was dead.

At first, Xu wanted to call the police, but then he chose to hide Ding's body. He cut her up because her corpse was too big to put into a bag. Then Xu threw it into the fire control pool in the basement of the building and fled. Police arrested him in Guangzhou on November 15 last year.

Shaoxing Intermediate People's Court found him guilty of murder and sentenced him to death in April.

The couple's company was famous in Shaoxing and around the country, because of its high-tech textiles production. Its color separation plate-making center is one of the largest and most advanced in Asia. It is also one of only two companies in the world capable of manufacture using a digitally controlled laser printing mesh-making machine.

Xu owns 10 national patents. The book *China Textiles Material Illustration Collection*, which he edited, is regarded as an authoritative reference book in the industry. He and his staff were the first in the country to use computers instead of printing by drawing manually.

According to a report published by *Beijing Youth Daily* on June 7, Xu always seemed like a kind man while his wife played the role of strongwoman both in work and daily life. Ding held the real power in the company.

Most people who knew the couple could not believe what happened and preferred to believe it was an accident. This partly explains why about 200 people, including his colleagues, friends and fellow industry experts, wrote to the court asking for Xu to be given another chance.

Xu and Ding have a 15-year-old daughter, Xu Qiaoyi. She wrote a letter to her grandparents on March 16 this year, asking them to forgive her father. She also wrote a letter to the court. "Though I once hated my father who has repented now, I



Ding Xia (above)

Xu Jianping (below)



don't want to taste the pain of losing another member of my family," she said in the letter to the court.

News of the support for Xu caused controversy nationwide. In many people's minds, reducing the penalty would be a mockery of the law. But there was a similar case in 1999 in the Uighur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang, where the Advanced People's Court changed a death sentence to a two-year stay of execution on May 5, 1999. The main reason was that the convict had acquired three national patents while in jail.

Similarly, Xu also got three national patents for textiles technology since the court's judgement.

The case has been submitted to Zhejiang Advanced People's Court. Should Xu die? Or is it better to give him a chance to benefit the industry? Opinions follow.

**Deng Jixiang, Xu's lawyer**

Xu's action had little social influence since it happened in a family. Xu's action should come under intentional harm causing death. There is no evidence showing that Xu and Ding had any conflict involving assets or emotional reasons. Ding's death was an accident.

Keeping Xu alive will be more useful to the company staff, the textiles industry and his daughter.

It's unnecessary to worry about setting a dangerous precedent. Determining what punishment to give the convict is very complicated process. That's why I'll say no two cases are the same. Judges must consider all kinds of factors when sentencing, including the criminal action, the convict's intentions and the results of the crime.

I hope to secure a stay of execution.

**Wang Yinsheng, Ph.D in Computer Communication at Chinese Academy of Sciences**

As a consultant for the couple's company, I worked with them from October 2001 until the tragedy happened. They were both good people to my mind. Xu was always kind to everyone. I think he is an expert more than a businessman.

Though there are some so-called high-tech textiles companies in Zhejiang or Guangdong province, few are as advanced as Xu and Ding's company.

The company's projects involve machinery manufacture, electromechanical engineering, automatic control, laser science, optoelectronic technology, chemical engineering and computer science.

I would say Xu and Ding were the best entrepreneurs among the local, even the national nongovernmental-business company directors. They were leaders in the textiles industry and nobody can replace them.

So I'll insist that this case is different from ordinary social criminal cases. It happened in a family. Moreover, it's also different from other cases, which usually involve asset disputes or emotional trouble.

It's improper to make a simple judgement for such a special case. It's true Xu should be punished. But his departure will influence his family, his company and the whole national textiles industry. I believe Xu can make more contribution to the industry and the country if he is allowed to live.

### Expert's View

**Chen Xingliang, professor from Law School of Beijing University**

That everyone should be treated equally in front of the law is the fundamental principle of criminal law. A person's status shouldn't influence the judgement. The court should declare the sentence according to the criminal facts.

For this case, many people who are familiar with Xu pleaded with the court to reduce his penalty. The law doesn't forbid such action. People have the right to express their attitude to a case. The court should hear any petition. But it shouldn't unduly influence the independent judgement of the court.

If there is no relationship between the case and what Xu had done before he committed his crime, the court shouldn't consider the convict's background. The court may consider reducing the sentence if a criminal makes some positive moves after being arrested, such as revealing more information to the authorities or inventing something useful for society.

Photos provided by Photocom

## Readers & Leaders

We welcome your letters and articles, preferably around 700 words. Please give your full name, current address and phone number (not necessarily for publication). You can email us at [comment@ ynet.com](mailto:comment@ynet.com) or fax us at (010) 6590 2525.

The views expressed in this column are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of *Beijing Today*.

## The Spit Thing

By Yvonne Gluyas

She was a delight to observe, an image of Chinese beauty and sophistication. Shiny black hair, perfect features and dressed in the latest fashions, the young woman sitting at an outdoor café in Beijing attracted the attention of my Australian friend, who had just arrived in China. He was about to go over and talk to her when she suddenly made a loud hawking noise in her throat, then leant over and spat a huge glob of phlegm onto the ground, rubbing it in with the point of her delicate shoe. "I was absolutely horrified!" gasped my dismayed friend as he hurried back.

Although it is the spitting that bothers people who have lived in China for a few years the most, we have learnt to put up with it and not be at all surprised when our Chinese friends, even the most educated and well traveled, do it. But it's still hard not to be appalled by this habit.

Public spitting is prevalent here, and foreign visitors almost always place it, along with public toilets, as the two worse things about China. Organizers of the 2008 Olympic Games are also trying to curtail spitting before the arrival of hundreds of thousands of Westerners unaccustomed to widespread expectorating.

Many citizens have recently suggested rectifying the bad habit after it was discovered by scientists that the SARS virus can survive four to six hours on surfaces and even longer in sputum. Spitting has become socially reprehensible, even criminal, in many parts of China as public health authorities struggled to curb the spread of diseases such as SARS and tuberculosis. On the streets of cities, the familiar sound of someone clearing their lungs before spitting now sends passers-by scurrying in fear of infectious droplets.

Little plastic "spit bags" have recently been freely handed out to rail passengers and visitors to historic attractions, along with anti-spitting pamphlets, as China launched an ambitious campaign to reform its ancient spitting culture. Instead of

spitting on the ground, people are being urged to carry the special bags and spit into them. "With little bags in hand we will always be healthy, we will never be defeated," stated one Chinese campaign slogan.

SARS may have modified the habit slightly, but despite government crusades to ban it, and media campaigns against spitting, which is now officially regarded as uncivilized and potentially dangerous, it is still prevalent. Drastic increases in fines have been formulated for anyone caught spitting in public, and the action now carries a fine of between 50 and 200 yuan. But will the threat of having to pay up stop hardened Beijing spitters? I think not.

I myself have embarked on an almost embarrassing personal campaign to halt this antisocial habit, especially after large posters were put up in the housing compound where I live, stating "For your health, no spitting please!" This week, residents were handed a notice entitled "Keeping up our guard against SARS." It said, "There is still room for improvement. We are deepening our sanitation campaign and would appreciate no spitting in the yards. Please inform visitors of our sanitation requirements." Despite this, staff and visitors continue to litter the paths, lawns and gardens with 'land oysters'. Confronting one unsuspecting man the other day, as he spat a huge dollop of phlegm near the entrance to my apartment building, I shouted "fei dian" and demanded that he cleaned the offending mess up. He just laughed and walked away!

I believe China has a long way to go before this vile practice is removed, but this seemingly daunting task is not impossible. Human nature can be changed with increased education and greater public awareness!

*Yvonne Gluyas is an Australian woman who has been living and working in China for four years.*

## Beijing Unmasked

By Cindy L. Jiang

Beijing is no longer full of masked faces. It is perhaps natural, now that the initial panic has subsided. But it did surprise veteran journalist Yoichi Shimatsu when last week he came back from Hong Kong. CCTV crews invited Shimatsu, also a guest professor at Tsinghua University, to Beijing to discuss some post-SARS issues.

He wasn't even sure there would be any restaurants open. I took him to Sanlitun, which, with its neon lights, noise and crowds, seemed the same as ever. In the Italian restaurant we went to, the guests were mostly foreigners and it was so full and so loud inside that conversation was sometimes difficult.

This, together with fact that everyone seemed to have taken their masks off, seemed to surprise Mr. Shimatsu. It seems the media is not aware that Beijingers are getting back to normal. The headlines these days, unlike the scary statistics of recent weeks, focus on stories like the WHO declaring that Beijing's promising SARS figures are indeed credible.

Questionable credibility has been front-page news for some time now. In an interview with CCTV, Long Yongtu, former vice minister of foreign trade, lamented the failure to reassure people by informing them of the basic scientific facts about SARS. "We should have had an authority to publicize timely information on the disease," he said. He regretted having to reach his own conclusions after studying the many

speeches and explanations from different sources, namely that SARS did not appear to be infectious during the latent period and that it died after exposure in the air for three or four hours, except in feces.

"If such scientific knowledge had been widely spread among the people, there would not have been such unnecessary and unreasonable panic," Long said.

To give authoritative and timely information to the public, as Long pointed out, is a lesson we should learn from the SARS crisis. Unmask the information, in other words.

Rethinking is not only the government's business. Over-reaction due to lack of knowledge or information was widely in evidence in recent weeks. Several Chinese journalists should recently have attended a high-level education seminar in South Korea following an invitation from an Asian-European Foundation based in Singapore, only to be told that journalists from SARS-hit areas were not welcome. A professor from Hong Kong was also turned away.

It seems many people are resistant to positive information. They don't want to believe something, as if wearing masks on their eyes and ears. More masks should be taken off in the following days. Yours, and mine.

*Cindy L. Jiang, deputy director of Beijing Today*

### SOUND BITES

*"We have come here to look and talk with the government. But there are three criteria: the magnitude of the outbreak and the number of new cases occurring each day, the type of transmission occurring in the community and whether or not there are exported cases from the country."*

— Dr. David Heymann, the World Health Organization's executive director arrived in Beijing on Wednesday to investigate China's SARS outbreak and find some answers to questions that could

stall the lifting of a WHO travel warning. He said he did not dispute the accuracy of official figures in a country criticized widely for covering up for months the extent of the outbreak after the disease first appeared in the southern province of Guangdong.

*"We just need the public to maintain good personal hygiene and make sure their food is cooked very very well."*

— Tse Lai-yin, Hong Kong Department of Health consultant, said there was no

need for panic about a larger outbreak of anthrax. Hong Kong health officials implemented precautionary measures, including widespread disinfection, after a two-year-old boy died on May 30 after contracting anthrax. It was the first such death in the territory in nine years.

*"We don't know how many animals or humans have been involved and we don't know the scope of the problem. We do not have evidence of person-to-person transmission, although we are*

*looking at that possibility."*

— Stephen Ostroff of the US Centers for Disease Control and Infection said on Sunday last week. A search for the source of monkeypox — a smallpox-like illness not seen before in the Americas — stretched from the Great Lakes to Texas on Tuesday as the number of suspected and confirmed cases rose to 48.

*"They had to resign. There was no alternative. The credibility of the entire paper was at stake. It was their mana-*

*gerial expertise, or rather lack of it, that got them into all this trouble. They had run it badly. Everybody was so annoyed that there was no way of fixing it up."*

— Richard Wald, a professor of journalism at Columbia University regarding the resignation Thursday last week of the *New York Times'* two top editors, executive editor Howell Raines and managing editor Gerald Boyd. The paper now faces the tough task of restoring the credibility the newspaper lost in a damaging plagiarism scandal.

By Chen Ying



By Su Wei

While Internet use is booming in China, so is online copyright infringement, and the country's legislators are struggling to keep up.

In the past three years, courts in Beijing have held around 200 cases involving disputes over online copyright and domain names. Last year three of the ten biggest intellectual property rights cases in Beijing related to the Internet.

#### Variety of forms

Beijing Higher People's Court says most cases of rights

Coming Down on Online Copycats



and it was unrealistic for Internet service providers to have to pre-judge and select all the information their search engines would have the ability to find.

#### Long way to go

When the first domestic case relating to rights infringement on the Internet opened at Haidian People's Court in 1998, the protection of works on the Internet was not stated in any regulations or laws. Each time, courts must try cases according to existing Chinese laws for protection of intellectual rights.

The Supreme People's Court attempted to grapple with the issue in November 2000 by issuing guidelines relating to "Adjudication of and Application of Law to Cases of Copyright Dispute on Computer Networks".

Ordinary people interviewed by Beijing Today said they couldn't see what the fuss was about as they did not see too much negative effect from rights infringement on the Internet.

"One of the purposes of the Internet is to establish public libraries. With such strong demand, the influence of authors is certain to extend to a larger audience," said Wang Rui, a netizen who is used to shopping for books online after reading about them on the Internet. "I cannot see any tangible harm to authors brought by the spread of their works online."

A survey conducted by the National Library in 2001 found that over 43 percent of its readers came to borrow or even buy books after finding out about them online. "If someone says that works spread online is a kind of copyright infringement, the libraries could also be accused of violating copyright, as someone who borrows a book may lend it to someone else without the author's permission. This could also affect book sales," says Wang.

IT analyst Fang Xingdong says he does not mind portals using his IT industry articles as long as he gets credit. He believes there would be chaos if too many forces tried to interfere in the Internet. "Laws which follow the emergence of new technology should adjust to development demands," he says. "We need to keep in mind that we should curb illegal behavior, not the technology itself. In China the development of the Internet is still just beginning."

Fang emphasizes laws dealing with rights infringement should take benefit and harm into account. "If we highlight the importance of one kind of rights protection, there is a danger of infringing on another right. Punishment is not the aim of law. What we need is to enable people to protect their rights."

Photo / Tony Stone

infringement on the Internet relate to copyright — individual's works being published by websites without any permission.

In December 2001, Chen Xingliang, professor of Beijing University law school, sued China Digital Library, a website company, claiming that anyone who visited the website could download his works for free. Chen asked for compensation of 400,000 yuan. Haidian People's Court ordered China Digital Library to stop using Chen's works and to pay 80,000 yuan in compensation.

Li Decheng, a lawyer with Beijing Jingcheng Lawyer's Office, dealing with legal issues on the Internet, says it's common practice for a number of Internet companies to copy content from other websites.

In July 2000, Shanghai-based eastday.com came across a Shandong company that was using an identical website. "The Shandong company had the same channels and web page design," said a spokesman for eastday.com. "We paid for the professional web page design and the information from companies listed in our website."

According to Beijing Higher People's Court, another common area of dispute is domain name registration.

In September 1999, Zhengpu Company sued China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC). When the company wanted to register the domain name Alibaba, it found that CNNIC had reserved that domain name. Beijing No.1 Intermediate People's Court decided that CNNIC had the right to reserve some domain names if they were used by different companies.

In 1998 Kelon Group lodged a case against Yongan Clothing

Manufacturing Company at Haidian People's Court. Kelon argued that Yongan did not have the right to register "Kelon" as a domain name nor to ask Kelon for 800,000 yuan if it wanted to register the name. Three days before the court hearing, Yongan submitted to Kelon's demands.

#### Rush to court

In June 2001, Feng Yingjian, an expert in online sales, found that four websites had plagiarized his works. Then, last year, Feng came across a book called *Online Marketing*, published by China's Finance and Economics Publishing House, in which more than 15,000 words had been lifted from articles on his own website (www.marketingman.net). "The book does not give any reference to me," said Feng. "The worst thing is that my own book *Basics and Practice for Online Marketing* was published a little bit later than *Online Marketing*. So readers might have thought that I was plagiarizing someone else." He sued the publishing house successfully.

Chen Weihua, the first person to lodge a case relating to copyright infringement on the Internet, won his case against *Chengdu Computer Business Information Weekly* at Haidian People's Court in October 1998 after he found them publishing one of the articles from his own website without per-

mission. The company was ordered to offer a public apology to Chen and pay compensation of 924 yuan.

In 2001, Wu Shulian, a researcher at Guangdong Management and Science Research Institute sued Hong Kong-based Tom.com for lifting parts of an article of his about university rankings. "My name, my photo and tile were all deleted and the title was changed," he said.

IT legal expert Bai Erqiang says he does not really want to seek legal recourse even though more than 60 websites have used his articles illegally. "If I sued all of them, I would be in and out of court for two years and run out of defense funds." He says fines for irresponsible site operators from copying are not high enough. "The fine is more of a compensation than punishment. It usually ranges from just 500 to 500,000 yuan."

#### Guilty?

In 1998, Sichuan-based Oriental Information Consulting was sued by Readchina Group at Haidian People's Court. Readchina said the Sichuan company was using the same design and similar content.

The defendants argued there was not enough evidence that they had copied Readchina's website, but the court ordered them to pay 2,000 yuan in compensation.

According to Zhang Bin, a lawyer from Qingyuan Lawyer's Office, it is hard to identify where rights have been infringed due to the openness of the Internet.

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The two candidates, Wu Haining (left) and Chen Huibin (right), await the election result.

# Was the Right Person Elected?

By Ivy Zhang

The election of a delegate to the local people's congress caused quite a stir in Maling Community in west Shenzhen, Guangdong Province this May.

In the election on May 9, Chen Huibin won, but the other candidate, Wu Haining, cried foul. As Chen was preparing for a five-year term as the local delegate, starting with the fourth Nanshan District People's Congress held on May 27, Wu claimed the election was fraudulent and reported it to the Shenzhen and Nanshan District People's Congress Standing Committee.

On May 25, 33 voters from the community submitted a letter to the People's Congress office requesting Chen's removal from her post. An investigation team has been formed to look into the case.

## Participate in the election

There are more than 600 voters in Maling community, mainly in the three apartment compounds, Kaili Garden, Haofang Garden and Dijing Garden.

A total of 151 out of the 260 voters from Kaili Garden put Wu forward as their candidate in the election of a delegate to the people's congress, according to *Southern Metropolitan Daily*.

Wu Haining, a native Beijinger, came to Shenzhen 12 years ago and has since worked as President of Shenzhen Shuanghai New Technology Company. He became the Director of Kaili Garden House Owners Committee after he moved there eight years ago.

Chen Huibin has been director of Maling residents committee for just under four months.

Wu produced his own color campaign posters and put them up in the notice boards in Kaili and Haofang gardens.

In the posters, Wu listed his commitments, plans, resume, photos and media coverage. He also distributed more than 1,700 public letters to the residents.

In the letters, Wu said that if he was elected as the delegate, he would set up a Nanshan District People's Congress Delegate Office.

"The phone line will be open round the clock to receive people's comments and pass them on to higher authorities. The office will coordinate between the government and the public, and provide timely information."

Wu said voters used to get only a brief introduction about the candidates which gave them little information to go on.

Wu said he used to care little about the elections held every five years. But as director of Kaili Garden House Owners Committee, he has become active in fighting for residents' rights including obtaining property certificates and improving the living environment in the compound.

"Residents' awareness of participation in the election is enhanced now," says Wu. "If I was the dele-

gate, our suggestions and proposals which used to be ignored by the government would be reviewed and would get some response. We'd be more powerful from the perspective of supervising the government's performance."

The biggest weakness in the current people's congress delegate election system is that most of the delegates are appointed by the government, according to Wu.

"The vote used to be called 'confirmation vote'. Someone had already been appointed by the authorities to be the delegates. Voters made the ballots just for confirmation. It was kind of a formality. Most voters did not care who was elected because

"Residents' awareness of participation in the election is enhanced now," says Wu.

"If I was the delegate, our suggestions and proposals which used to be ignored by the government would be reviewed and would get some response. We'd be more powerful from the perspective of supervising the government's performance."



Wu Haining puts up his posters.

Photo by Aniu

it was irrelevant to their own interests," says Wu.

But now, there are at least six candidates in Shenzhen who have been directly elected by the public instead of being appointed.

## Fair election?

On election day, the votes were counted twice. The first time, the counting was wrong with a total of 637 votes having been distributed but 640 votes returned. In the second count, Chen won overwhelmingly.

Wu said if the counting was wrong, the votes should have been sealed up and handed over to a third party for review according to election law.

"It is evident that the vote was illegal. I don't know how they operated it. It must be fraudulent," said Wu. "I felt very angry."

After the result was announced, Wu read a statement at the scene. He said he felt the vote had been rigged, and that it would be easy for Chen as she worked as the leader of the election work group and residents committee.

But the standing committee of Nanshan district people's congress, who sent five to six people over to supervise the election process, denied that the vote was fraudulent.

"It is impossible the vote was fraudulent. The first count was wrong so the votes were counted again," Yang Jinjie, director of the standing committee, told *Beijing Today*.

the matter. She told *Beijing Today* she was waiting for the result of the investigation.

Yang Jinjie said the problems indicated in the request are true but they are not solely the responsibility of Chen and are not sufficient to recall her.

"The delegate bears indirect responsibility, which is to report people's comments and requests to relevant authorities. She did report and go to the site to examine the situation. It is impossible for her to handle all the problems by herself," said Yang.

According to *Southern Metropolitan Daily*, the investigation group will find out about how Chen has carried out her duties as delegate and investigate the 33 voters' motives for putting forward their request.

Wu is already confident of what the investigation result will be.

"They'll say the reasons for recalling Chen are invalid or that the number of voters is not enough," said Wu. "As far as I know, three people out of the 33 have already pulled out. If more voters quit, they'll say the request is invalid due to the headcount."

Huang Ke is one of the voters who has quit the request, saying he has had enough of being bothered by the media. Huang told *Beijing Today* the investigation group talked to him once.

"The investigation group said we should respect the vote outcome. As to whether the vote is fraudulent or not, I don't know," said Huang. "If the vote is fair and reasonable, I will respect the outcome."

Huang joined the other voters in requesting Chen's recall because "she did commit dereliction of duty in those three things."

"I prefer Wu because we have known him in the community for a long time. I know what kind of person he is. He has done a lot of good things for us, helping us to protect our rights," said Huang.

## Is Chen a qualified delegate?

On May 26, the day after the request for recall was submitted, Chen posted more than 100 public letters to residents in Maling community.

In the letter, Chen expressed her thanks to the voters and willingness to solicit people's comments and suggestions.

About 30 residents came to Chen that night. Chen found they had three major concerns: lack of enough buses running through Haofang Garden; irrigation problems at Kaili Garden and schooling of residents' children. She jotted down the problems and made the first two part of a proposal for the congress, according to *Southern Metropolitan Daily*.

Yang Jinjie said Chen is a qualified delegate who has done a good job. At the congress, on average, one delegate submits 1.2 proposals. However, Chen has submitted nine.

# Who Killed Sun?

By Ivy Zhang

Twelve people have been convicted of manslaughter in the case of the death of Sun Zhigang. Following two days of court hearings late last week, the verdict was delivered in Guangzhou on Monday. Six others were convicted of dereliction of duty.

Qiao Yanqin, who worked at the Health Care Center of Guangzhou Collecting Post, was sentenced to death and deprived of his political rights. Li Haiying - one of the eight people who shared the same room as Sun and were found to have administered the fatal beating - was sentenced to death, suspended for two years. The other ten were given sentences ranging from three years to life imprisonment.

Six others were convicted of dereliction of duty and sentenced to two to three years imprisonment at Guangzhou Tianhe District People's Court and Baiyun District People's Court.

The six are: Li Yaohui, former police officer at Huangcunjie police station; Zhang Yaohui, former deputy director of Jiangcun in-patient department of Guangzhou Brain Hospital; Peng Hongjun, head of the health center; Doctor Ren Haoqiang; and nurses Zou Liping and Zeng Weilin at the health center.

According to the court, Sun Zhigang was wrongly arrested by police from Huangcunjie Station when he was out carrying no identification on the night of March 17.

Later that night, Sun claimed to be having heart problems and was sent to the Health Center of Guangzhou Collecting Post the next day.

On the night of March 19, a dispute broke out between Sun and Qiao Yanqin, the health care worker on duty at the time. Qiao allegedly encouraged eight people who were sharing a room with Sun to beat him up.

Early on March 20, the eight allegedly beat Sun severely.

Sun died on the morning of March 20.

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

After the verdict was delivered, *Beijing Today* interviewed Zhong Yunjie, lawyer for Sun's family from Guangdong Datong Law firm who attended the two-day court hearing. Excerpts are below.

**Beijing Today:** What do you think of the verdict?

**Zhong:** It is not light. From the judicial perspective, sentence could hardly be more severe than this.

**Beijing Today:** Do you really believe that Sun was beaten to death by those who were sentenced?

**Zhong:** Yes, definitely. I attended the entire hearing in the court. The defendants were guilty.

**Beijing Today:** Was the security videotape from the health center shown in the courtroom?

**Zhong:** No. But the evidence was clear. It was not necessary to show the videotape.

**Beijing Today:** Are there any problems with the defendants' statements?

**Zhong:** The defendants were brought to the court one by one. Details of the beating were exposed through individual statements which showed that they were the people who beat Sun.

**Beijing Today:** The verdict says Sun claimed he had heart problems and was sent to the health center. But Sun's father said Sun had no history of heart disease. How do you explain this?

**Zhong:** The public prosecutor showed proof provided by doctors at the collecting post. Sun Zhigang claimed he was sick. Examination showed that his heart beat fast. I also looked into the reasons why Sun claimed he was sick myself. Staff at the collecting post are afraid of anything unexpected happening. Thus, whenever someone says he is sick, he will immediately be sent to the hospital. In addition, Sun might have heard that it is easier to be released after being sent to the health center.

**Beijing Today:** Many people suspect that the police or staff at the collecting post beat Sun because the autopsy showed no clear injury marks on Sun's body but massive internal injury. How did the eight civilians who shared a room with him administer such a professional beating?

**Zhong:** There are only two possibilities. One is what you said. But in the court, the evidence indicated that Sun was not beaten before he was admitted to the health center.

**Beijing Today:** What kind of evidence?

**Zhong:** Evidence produced by doctors at the collecting post and the health center. Moreover, Qiao Yanqin, the health care worker who was given the death penalty, confessed that he asked the eight people to beat Sun.

**Beijing Today:** Could you explain more about the room transfer?

**Zhong:** Sun was transferred to three rooms after he was admitted to the health center. Room 201 first, then Room 206 and then Room 205. The hospital also serves as a mental home in Guangzhou and it serves as the health care center of the collecting post. Patients in Room 206 are all normal people, most of whom knew Qiao. Qiao said it was easier to communicate with those people. After Sun was transferred to Room 206, he asked the eight to beat Sun. After the first beating, Qiao was not satisfied, so he asked them to give Sun a second beating. During the second beating, Hu Jinyan, the health care worker on duty and nurse Zeng Zhiwei saw what was going on in the surveillance room. They went upstairs to transfer Sun to Room 205 where Sun complained to Lü Erpeng, another health care worker, that he had been beaten by other patients. Unexpectedly, Lv then beat Sun several times with a stick. Sun died a couple of hours later.

**Beijing Today:** Where was Qiao at that time?

**Zhong:** Qiao was eating with doctors and nurses at the health care center.

**Beijing Today:** Why did Qiao want to beat Sun? Is it because Sun caused a disturbance?

**Zhong:** There were four or five patients in Room 201. Qiao wanted to beat another patient in the room, but Sun stopped him. Qiao was enraged so he beat Sun with his hands and feet. This is what he told the court.

As to Sun shouting, there was a witness named Luo Xiaohai. Luo's relative came around to take Luo away from the health center that night. When the relative passed Room 201, Sun asked him to help find his boss at the company and said he had an identification card and was a college graduate. Sun also told this guy that some people had been beaten and some were beaten to death at the center. He shouted to Luo's relative for help. Qiao found out about this and organized to beat Sun again.

**Beijing Today:** What was Sun's family's response to the verdict?

**Zhong:** They said 'more of them should have received the death sentence.'



# Tales of Sound and Fury



Photo by Wang Wei

By Yu Shanshan

Some actors, playwrights and directors might feel that now is a good time for a break and a chance to make plans while SARS-panicked audiences stay away. But for one workaholic impresario, Yuan Hong, who recently set up the North Theatre company, this enforced idleness is a massive blow.

"I can't sleep at night," he says. Since April 10 when his production of *Anna Christie* ended five days earlier than scheduled, all following performances had to be postponed to an unknown future date or cancelled. "We planned to use the money from ticket sales to expand our second-floor seating area, make some boxes and build a couple of rehearsal rooms. But because of SARS, not only have we had to forget about that, but we're stuck with a bill of 3000 yuan everyday to the land owner."

Though he's hit the headlines in the last five years with some daring productions, in particular *Che Guevara* which caused quite a sensation in 2000, 32-year-old Yuan Hong, art director of North Theatre and a well-known producer in Beijing's drama circles, describes his life as "lonely" and "tired".

This current predicament reminds Yuan of the time ten years ago when he was suddenly struck by ITP, a serious blood disease. "These days, I find I'm complaining a lot. I keep asking, 'I am not a bad man, why is it always me?'"

## Drama therapy

Yuan says his love of drama comes from its strange help in curing his disease. While he was being treated, Yuan went to see a production of the Greek drama *Antigone*, which was performed by the Greek National Theatre. Although the whole play was performed in Italian, Yuan said he understood it perfectly.

Yuan soon found that other dramas provided escape and solace from the stress and depression brought on by his disease and his various jobs, from encyclopedia editor to advertising copywriter. Two dramas in particular, the Beijing People's Theatre production of *Tea House* (*Cha Guan*) and *The Peach Blossom Land* by Lai Shengchuan (Stan Lai). He found they spoke aloud what he had in his heart and that this was amazingly therapeutic.

In 1992, the production of *Tea House*, one of China's classic dramas, came to the end of its run. Though many other experimental plays emerged at the same time, Yuan felt they were abstract and could only be understood by a few people. "None of them could match *Tea House*, which is so easily loved by all. Imagine a good play like that not being performed! I was quite upset about that," Yuan recalls.

Seeing *The Peach Blossom Land* on video had a similarly profound effect. After ending a long term relationship himself, Yuan was able to empathize with the twists and turns of the play. "It didn't seem like pretending to me, it was real life; the real joys and sorrows of human life." "Life itself is far more dramatic than our plays. If I need relief, I can always take out the videocassettes and watch one, that's enough for me, but I want more people to have the same strong feeling I experienced. *Tea House* and Lai's plays taught me this, that you can't live merely for yourself," says Yuan. "That's what changed me from an enthusiastic theatergoer into an active participant. And what keeps me going is that I don't feel content with what I see now. I

always want to catch that kind of emotion and life."

## DIY theatre

"In my experience of producing plays, I'm like Lao Tao in *The Peach Blossom Land*, suffering the disappointment of being drawn back to face reality." Unlike other drama producers who have support from state theatres or big companies, in his ten years experience Yuan has had to learn how to make a good play with a very low budget, for example 30,000 yuan for *Woyzeck*, adapted and performed by the students of Beijing Institute of Technology in Shanghai in 2001.

Yuan calls his method "zero production". A famous director once told him he thought it was a shame to make a play for less than 200,000 yuan. Yuan's response was emphatic: "even if I have only three cents, I'll make a drama! A state theatre can spend ten times what I do on the same play. The only difference is that they use the public's money, while I use my own." When Yuan set up North Theatre in March 2002, the only full time staff were himself, one electronic technician and two employees in charge of finance and administration. For each new play, Yuan would have to find some help. But he still needs to do everything, from script adaptation and casting to technical jobs like stage design and lighting. Sometimes he even delivers tickets on his bike to subscribers' homes. "We're a DIY theatre. We do everything from scratch. My view is, since a play involves everyone contributing, we should all lend a hand. But not everyone feels easy with this situation. I've offended quite a few people who expect good service here, including some of my best friends."

Yuan enjoys the moment when a play is over and the audience starts leaving the theater. "I sit in audience and a lot of things came into my head. Sometimes, though, I just feel tired and understood by no one, and I think of those times when I was wronged."

Yuan admits to a certain insecurity about his own qualifications. He may have lived for drama for a decade, but he's never really studied it. "In the past, I was merely a member of the audience, and little by little I became involved in it. But I've never really been a professional. Unfortunately, everyone expects me to be a professional."

On the train back to Beijing after *Che Guevara* ended its tour in Guangzhou, Yuan looked out the window and an idea suddenly hit him that if he simply got off the train and disappeared, never to involve himself in drama again, maybe he would be happier.

## Sticking with it

But of course he didn't do it. "I am not content, but I suppose that's because my best time hasn't come yet," he says. Complaint aside, every day at 8:30 am, Yuan arrives at his office on the third floor of the theatre, and he leaves at 10 pm. As always, his transport is a bicycle, one without a lock that he borrows from a technician working at the theatre.

"I keep an eye on new plays that come out. I'm still hoping the Third Student Drama Festival in Beijing, scheduled for mid-July, can go ahead" he says.

In April 2001, after seeing a drama contest held at Renmin University, Yuan decided to hold a show for university students and their original dramatic works. "We should let drama students have a forum for professionals to see their work," he says.

Yuan wants his theatre to be a bridge between professionals and amateurs. "With a famous director, I usually observe his work for quite a long time before getting in contact, but with young amateurs I do the opposite. I love talking with them directly, for I feel that kind of communication has a stronger and more effective result," he says.

## Whither goest thou?

Asked what they think of Yuan Hong, his friends give a simple answer: "He is a little bit extreme."

His rebellion against his family happened when his uncle, who worked in a local army post, wanted to help him get into the army. "I'd love to have been a soldier, but once I realized it took guanxi to organize, I rejected it. I couldn't stand the influence of guanxi networks."

But Yuan feels he has mellowed since then. "Before 2000, I never would have respected guanxi in drama circles. But after that I came to realize that I have probably offended enough people. Sometimes, you have to compare your standards with those defined by contemporary social values. For instance, you should at least polish your shoes before going to see a sponsor."

Though he also worries about his future family life — "I'm not young anymore," he murmurs — Yuan Hong has a faithful girlfriend, a former dancer who is now a devoted assistant at the theater, dealing with government departments and helping to build the theatre's website (n-theatre.com.cn). Yuan says he feels sick to think that everyday all the two of them talk about is SARS and theatre, and that it makes him fear for their relationship. "I can bear losing the theatre, but not her."

**I**t didn't seem like pretending to me, it was real life; the real joys and sorrows of human life. I want more people to have the same strong feeling I experienced.

**E**ven if I have only three cents, I'll make a drama!

**S**ometimes, you have to compare your standards with those defined by contemporary social values. For instance, you should at least polish your shoes before going to see a sponsor."



Photo by Li Yan





The Nüshu characters for Jiangyong (left) and the fake, "man-made" version.

A script created and used only by women in a remote region of central China is in danger of disappearing in a flood of man-made fakes



Yang Huanyi, 94, demonstrates Nüshu.

## The Writing's on the Wall

By Iris Miao

Since its "discovery" in 1983, Nüshu, or Nüzi, a unique script used only among the women of Jiangyong County, Hunan Province has attracted attention from all over the world. Scholars and tourists have swarmed to the remote villages in the southwest of the province in search of pieces of Nüshu culture.

The tide of visitors has swelled even further in the past two years, since the local government launched a multi-million-yuan project that includes the designation of the village of Pumei as "Nüshu Culture Village," turning the town of Shangjiangxu into an open "Nüshu culture museum," and holding a series of special exhibitions, cultural exchanges with other countries and international symposiums.

It would appear that great care is being taken to preserve and protect Nüshu culture, however, the quest for quick profits has, to some extent, derailed preservation efforts: Men are creating Nüshu characters openly, even compiling newly man-made characters into a Nüshu "dictionary," and fakes and forgeries of Nüshu works abound.

"The fakes are damaging the face of Nüshu," Zhao Liming, director of the Linguistic Teaching and Research Section of Tsinghua University, told *Beijing Today*. Of four Nüshu works Zhao bought during a recent visit to Jiangyong, three were forgeries, "what currently threatens Nüshu most is not the danger of being lost, it is the danger of losing its authenticity."

### Nüshu history

Many uncertainties remain about when and how Nüshu originated. Some scholars believe the script dates back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907), some

say it came into being before the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC), others maintain it even predates the oracle-bone inscriptions of the Shang Dynasty (16th -11th century BC).

Zhao Liming, one of the foremost authorities on Nüshu, began her research in 1986. She says she was filled with excitement the first time she saw Nüshu characters. After extensive research, Zhao concluded that Nüshu was derived from Chinese characters, and probably originated around the beginning of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

Many of the surviving examples of Nüshu are only as old as the last one or two generations, while the oldest surviving items date back one to two hundreds years. Nüshu was usually written on paper, fans and handkerchiefs, or embroidered on or woven into cloth. When a woman died, her Nüshu works were usually buried with her or burnt. Only a few were left as souvenirs for her daughters or sworn sisters.

Moreover, during political movements such as the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), Nüshu was branded as "evil characters" and countless artifacts were destroyed. Consequently, no earlier examples of Nüshu have come to light, making research into its origins difficult.

The earliest Nüshu relic found so far is a piece of bronze coin made during the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom (1851-1864), which was inscribed with Nüshu characters on the back that read "All women on earth are one family."

"I assume Nüshu was prevalent around 1850, otherwise it wouldn't appear on the coin made in Nanjing, where the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom was based," says Zhao.

### Nüshu form, content, and inheritance

The form of Nüshu characters looks distinctly feminine. The characters, formed mostly of left-falling and right-falling strokes (as in Chinese characters), dots, circles and ticks, take the shape of a willow-leaf.

The total vocabulary is around 1,000 words, of which 700 are the most commonly used. The range of meaning of the characters is comprehensive, expressing feelings or used to describe everything from daily trifles to important historical events. Some women used Nüshu to correspond with each other and for autobiographical journals. The contents can be sung or chanted in local dialect.

"There were two peaks for using Nüshu in a woman's life in the old times; one during her girlhood, the other in her widowhood," says Zhao. It was during both these periods that women were closest to their "sworn sisters." Together they would do needlework, and together they would share their happiness and sorrow through the medium of Nüshu.

The concept of "Women are noble" runs through the history of Nüshu culture, in direct contradiction to the Confucian concept of male superiority.

Zhao describes Nüshu as a cultural revolt. "Women used Nüshu to complain, yet the complaint was not disheartened. On the contrary, it emits a bright radiance of freedom."

According to Zhao's statistics, there are fewer than five people alive today who know the entire Nüshu vocabulary. A 94-year-old woman, Yang Huanyi, is the only living person who has experienced first hand the entire process of Nüshu culture, meaning she had "sworn sisters" when she was a girl, with whom

she learned Nüshu; she sang Nüshu songs with her sisters, and after her husband died, she occupied herself with Nüshu, and can tell her life story using Nüshu.

He Yanxin, 64 years old, is considered the only natural "inheritor" of Nüshu. She grew up in the care of her grandmother, from whom she started learning Nüshu at the age of 10.

Hu Meiyue, 40 years old, also learned Nüshu from her grandmother Gao Yinxian. She began to learn Nüshu in 1986, when it underwent a resurgence in popularity. Now she teaches Nüshu at Pumei.

### Fakes are destroying Nüshu

With anthropology and sociology scholars from all over the world seeking authentic copies of Nüshu, to say nothing of collectors and souvenir hunters, demand for Nüshu relics has skyrocketed, as have prices.

When Zhao began to collect research materials in the 1980s, there was no fixed price for Nüshu articles, and villagers often gave pieces away for nothing. Now a Nüshu book can fetch as much as US \$400 dollars.

As a result, forgeries abound. Zhao says a local official once said to her when she expressed concern about the damage these fakes were causing to Nüshu culture, "Who cares whether they are original or fake? As long as they can attract tourists."

Zhao's distress at encountering such attitudes has not lessened her resolve to try to preserve this unique cultural legacy. Together with He Yanxin from Jiangyong County and many of her students, she has been sorting out and translating original materials collected during the past 10 years, and a corpus of Nüshu original works is due to be completed in the near future.



Zhao Liming shows a belt woven with auspicious Nüshu characters. The Chinese equivalent is 金玉满堂. Photos by Wang Wei

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With increasing competition from foreign companies, domestic animated filmmakers are facing the difficult question of whether to keep their traditional styles and Chinese characteristics, or change to more international, modern looks? Two recent cartoon programs that retell traditional legends are at the forefront of the cultural clash within Chinese cartooning.



The Japanese-style look of the main characters is the most controversial aspect of Heroes of Suitang.

## New Cartoons Clash on TV

By Zhao Pu

June has always been a big month for animation in China, with cartoon studios around the country setting their newest productions for launch on Children's Day, June 1. This year, two cartoons, one produced by CCTV and the other by the Shanghai Animation Studio, are vying for the limelight and TV audiences nationwide.

Both CCTV's *Legend of Nezha* and the Shanghai and Taiwan joint project *Heroes of Suitang* are retellings of famed Chinese legends, though they differ in how closely they keep to their original material. While *Legend of Nezha* is a relatively straight take on the story of the hero Nezha, harkening back to a classic animated film produced over two decades ago, *Heroes of Suitang* takes great artistic and historic license in portraying major figures from the early Tang Dynasty.

**Modernized heroes**  
The 52-episode cartoon series *Heroes of Suitang*, broadcast by more than 20 domestic television stations, is based on four historic novels about the turbulent transition from

the Sui to the Tang Dynasty in the 7th century. The main character is the hero Li Shimin, who led an army of rebels to overthrow the tyrannical last Sui emperor and established the Tang Dynasty.

Despite its historic focus, the characters in the series have been modernized to appeal to contemporary audiences, while love stories have also been added to enrich the plotline.

The most controversial aspect of the cartoons is how the heroes were drawn by famed Taiwanese cartoonist Gao Yong. Instead of going with a traditional Chinese style, he gave each major character features clearly influenced by Japanese cartoons.

Moreover, Li Shimin is shown as a handsome young swordsman, not a beer-bellied, middle-aged uncle as portrayed in films and comics of the past. His younger sister Li Shining looks like a Japanese high school student in a short skirt. All of the young heroes brandish punk-like dyed hair, while the girls are scantily-clad and sexualized.

Director Wang Genfa

told a reporter from *Beijing Youth Daily* last week, "We wanted to tell an old story in a new way." When the same journalist asked Gao Yong whether his Japanese-style designs could be controversial for a domestic cartoon, he said he did not care what others may say. "We've targeted cartoon fans 15 to 25 as our audience, so we wanted to present the story in a way they'd likely accept," he explained.

Expanding the series appeal to a young audience is the enlisting of six Taiwanese pop stars to sing the soundtrack, with the theme written and sung by heartthrob Richie Jen. **Nostalgic legend**

Comparing with *Heroes of Suitang*, *Legend of Nezha* is a far more conventional adaptation and portrayal of a folk legend.

CCTV started televising the 52-episode cartoon on June 1. The story revolves around the legendary Chinese hero Nezha, a little boy who can fly by standing on two magic wheels and defeats sea devils and monsters.

Nezha was born from a lotus, and then taken in

as a student by venerable master Taiyi, who teaches him magic. When Nezha is seven years old, his hometown is struck by a long drought, and the Dragon King, the greedy ruler of the East Sea who controls the rain, shows little mercy to the people. Instead, he demands the sacrifice children. In the end, Nezha saves his people and teaches the tyrant a sound lesson by killing the Dragon King's favorite son.

Instead of adding many modern elements into the story, the producers of *Nezha* decided to basically stick with the legend's traditional style and plot. At the same time, however, it was written and drawn to be far more entertaining than a famed previous version, the 1979 animated film *Nezha Defeats the Dragon* directed by Wang Shuchen.

The little hero still has his traditional round face and big eyes and wears a red *dudou*, a traditional Chinese tank top worn by children. "Not only kids, but also parents who have read Nezha's story in comic books since their childhood can enjoy this cartoon," said director Chen Jiaqi.

## Chinese Cartoon Classics

### Ma Liang and His Magic Brush, 1954

In a story written by Hong Xuntao, a young boy named Ma Liang has a magic brush pen that can make anything he draws become real. Little Ma uses the magic pen to fight evil and help the weak and oppressed.



### Havoc in Heaven, 1961

The film *Havoc in Heaven* was made by the Shanghai Animation Studio in 1961. The Heavenly Court gives the troublesome Monkey King a useless job to keep him busy, making him the keeper of the peach orchard in heaven. The monkey learns from some fairies that he has not been invited to the Heavenly Peach Banquet and gets very angry. He takes bites out of every peach in the orchard before the banquet, then gets drunk on immortality wine and in his drunken state eats all the immortality pills needed by the other immortals.



### The Story Of Afanti, 1979

This puppet animation classic was produced by the Shanghai Animation Studio in 1979. It tells a moral tale of the efforts of clever Uygur hero Afanti against a greedy landlord.



### Three Monks, No Water, 1980

This fable tells of three monks that share the onerous task of going from their temple down to the foot of the mountain to haul water back up. None of the monks want to do the thankless task, so each tells himself, "Wait until tomorrow, then one of the others will go down." One day passes, and no water, two days pass, still no water...



Scenes from Legend of Nezha

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# Cinemas Start to Reopen

By Dong Nan  
Cinemas in Beijing begin reopening this weekend, six weeks after the municipal government ordered the closure of public entertainment venues as a measure to contain the SARS epidemic.

“Patrons will have their temperature taken before they enter the cinemas, and anyone who has a fever will be refused entry. Strict disinfecting measures have also been adopted,” Liu Hongpeng, vice president of Beijing Xin Ying Lian Film told *Beijing Youth Daily* on Thursday last week.

Cinema goers will have another opportunity to see *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, which screened briefly in mid-April but was interrupted by the closure. This time, it is scheduled to run for 10 days.

Sci-fi fans can also look forward to seeing *Matrix Reloaded*, which will premiere in Beijing in the middle of next month.

According to an announcement by the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Culture, public libraries, cultural centers and theaters will also gradually reopen this month.



Dixie Chicks

## Country Music Releases

By Dong Nan  
Country music fans can now buy legitimate copies of the Dixie Chicks 2002 album *Home*. The winner of the Best Country Album Grammy award was released in China by Sony last week.

Since taking the national country music scene by storm just three years ago, the female trio has won millions of fans and an avalanche of awards, as well as courting a little controversy recently with comments about the US role in international affairs.

Released in September last year, *Home* is the Dixie Chicks' third album. As well as Best Country Album, it also won Grammys for Best Country Performance, Best Country Instrumental Performance, Best Recording Package and Country Group of the Year.



The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers is back in Beijing cinemas

## People's Art Theatre Goes Online

By Dong Nan  
Beijing People's Art Theatre, one of China's oldest and most renowned theatre companies, marked its 61st anniversary yesterday with the launch of a new website, www.bjry.com, in Chinese and English.

The website features news about upcoming events, the

history of the theater, profiles of famous actors and directors, information about the theatre's soon-to-open museum and an online ticketing service.

Visitors can also see scenes from some of the theatre's latest productions, including *Zhaoshi Guer* (Zhao, the Orphan) and *Wan Jia Deng Huo* (Lights of a Thousand Families).

Thirty scripts selected from some 300 works submitted by the general public about fighting against SARS have also been published on the website.

Beijing People's Art Theatre celebrated last year's 60th anniversary with a production of the classic play *Gouer Ye Nie Pan* (A Farmer's Nirvana).

## Linkin Park Tops Charts

By Nebula Dong  
Metal-rap-rockers Linkin Park's new album *Meteora* has topped sales charts at www.joyo.com and Xidan Music and Video World.

The album was released in China by Warner Music on April 20, one month after

its international release.

Calling on true fans of Linkin Park to “stand out,” the record company took aim at piracy during the promotion. “Don't waste your money on fake copies,” one advertisement warned, “you will find the legal version is much cooler.”

*Meteora* is the second album of new material from Linkin Park, following their multi-platinum 2000 debut *Hybrid Theory*, which sold 14 million copies worldwide and won them a Grammy for Best Hard Rock Performance, as well as nominations for Best Rock Album and Best New Artist.

## Director's Debut Released after Eight Years

By Dong Nan  
A 1995 film called *Wu Shan Yun Yu* (Rainclouds Over Wushan - In Expectation), directed by Zhang Ming was released on DVD last week.

It follows three tales based around the lives of several ordinary people living separate, yet oddly intertwined lives. It takes place in a small town soon to be submerged by the

Three Gorges Dam project.

The film won the Grand Prix at the 1997 Fribourg International Film Festival and Vancouver Festival's Dragons and Tigers Award for Young Cinema in 1996.

Dismissed by the original distributor as “negative” and “obscure,” *Rainclouds Over Wushan* was ignored for eight years. Ironically, the current

distributor has illustrated the DVD cover with an erotic photo to that has nothing to do with the film, presumably in an attempt to promote sales.

The 43-year-old Zhang Ming is one of the “sixth generation” of directors, and is best known for 2001's *Mi Yu Shi Qi Xiao Shi* (Weekend Plot). *Rainclouds Over Wushan* was his directorial debut.

## WORLDWIDE



Rod Stewart

**Rod Stewart Songs to Become London Musical**  
Gravelly voiced singer Rod Stewart is hoping *Tonight's The Night* for months, if not years, as a musical based on his songs prepares for an October debut in London's West End.

The show, woven around 22 of the British singer's hits, has been written by comedian and dramatist Ben Elton, responsible for turning rock group Queen's output into the musical *We Will Rock You*.

“It's going to run for 100 years — it will still be running when I'm the wrong side of the grass,” Stewart told Reuters on Tuesday. (Reuters)



Tionne 'T-Boz' Watkins and Rozonda 'Chilli' Thomas of TLC

**TLC Members Turn Attention to AIDS Prevention**  
Concert touring may not be in TLC's future, but Tionne “T-Boz” Watkins and Rozonda “Chilli” Thomas are on the road to support a worthy cause: HIV and AIDS education.

Fresh from what was touted as the act's final live performance at WHTZ (Z100) New York's Zootopia concert last weekend, the pair is launching Dialogues: Education and Treatment for a Well Planned Future.

“We can't talk about it enough,” Watkins says of the sobering statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those figures state that 47% of new HIV cases are African-Americans and 30% of new cases overall are women. (Billboard)

**Ex-JAG Actor Dies in Apparent Suicide**  
Muscleman actor Trevor Goddard, a former boxer who once had a recurring role on the TV series *JAG* and plays a pi-

rate in the upcoming movie *Pirates of the Caribbean*, died in an apparent suicide, investigators said Monday. He was 37.

Goddard's body was found in his North Hollywood home on Sunday by a woman who also lived at the location, according to Officer Grace Brady, a police spokeswoman. Police said they could not disclose her relationship to Goddard.



Trevor Goddard in JAG

An autopsy was planned Monday but the death had already been classified as suicide with prescription drugs, said Fred Corral of the Los Angeles County coroner's office. (Reuters)

## Matrix Still Strong at Overseas Box Office

*The Matrix Reloaded* continued to dominate the overseas box office during the weekend as Warner Bros.' sci-fi action adventure neared the end of its saturation booking.

But new blood is emerging in the form of “Finding Nemo”, “Bruce Almighty”, “Anger Management,” and “2 Fast 2 Furious,” which are grabbing some agreeable action as they start to move around in selected markets. (Reuters)

## Titanic Star Winslet Marries Mendes in Caribbean

*Titanic* star Kate Winslet has married her director boyfriend Sam Mendes in an intimate Caribbean ceremony, her publicist said on Monday.

The Oscar-nominated British actress took the plunge while holidaying with Mendes in late May, he added.

“Present were Winslet's daughter, Mia, and three close friends,” the couple said in a statement, describing the event as a “small ceremony.” (Reuters)



Kate Winslet and her husband Sam Mendes

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By Hou Mingxin

David Beckham, Manchester United's superstar midfielder, has been linked in recent weeks with a 30 million pound sterling (\$50.08 million) transfer from United to clubs including Real Madrid, Barcelona, newly crowned European champion AC Milan and its rival Inter.

For now, however, whether the England captain will really leave the club he has been dedicated to since he was 16 years old remains a question.

#### United's Statement

Last Saturday, Manchester United published a statement on its official website, confirming for the first time speculation that Beckham may leave. "Manchester United can confirm today that clubs from Italy and Spain have expressed a firm interest in signing David Beckham," the statement said.

The statement continued that Beckham's agents, SFX, have been approached by clubs independently and maintained close contact with the United organization, while keeping the star informed.

The statement was definitely a bitter pill to swallow for United's many fans worldwide.

#### Barcelona: We need him

Last Thursday, candidate for the post of Barcelona president Joan Laporta announced for the first time that he has been talking with Manchester United about signing Beckham.

"We do not deny that we started negotiations some time ago regarding the signing of David Beckham," Laporta told Spanish media in Barcelona. "But, I cannot give any more details at this time."

Laporta, one of six official candidates for the Barcelona presidency, said that it would not be easy to sign the football star, adding he hoped for further developments in the near future. "We have well-founded hopes that we will soon be able to say more about this signing and I am confident that we can bring [Beckham] to Barcelona if I win the election," he said.

Some football analysts have speculated that Laporta is seeking the kind of headline-grabbing deal that gave Florentino Perez a surprise victory over incumbent Lorenzo Sanz in Real Madrid's presidential election three years ago.

Sanz had steered the club to two European Cup wins in three seasons and started the campaign as the overwhelming favorite, but the election was turned on its head when Perez revealed he had agreed a deal to sign Portugal's Luis Figo from Barcelona.

According to a report in Guangzhou-based *Soccer News* last Friday, Laporta's representative Sandro Rossel last week met United chief executive Peter Kenyon to discuss a \$50 million deal for Beckham.

Kenyon has also contacted Ronaldinho's representative to discuss the probability of importing the Brazilian forward from Paris St. Germain. Ronaldinho's arrival at Old Trafford could well trigger the departure of one of the club's big names, perhaps Beckham, *Soccer Daily* reported.

#### Milan:

#### Beckham Too Expensive

Last week, AC Milan Vice President Adriano Galliani denied the probability of his club signing David Beckham.

"Undoubtedly, Beckham is a great player, but he costs too much. In fact, we need a great right-back defender to strengthen our squad," Galliani, who effectively runs Milan on behalf of club owner and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, told the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* last Monday.

Furthermore, Beckham's personal deal with mobile telephone company Vodafone would also be a pose problem for AC Milan, which is sponsored by TIM, Vodafone's main rival in the Italian market.

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti has agreed that Beckham would not fit easily into his team and that he needs to import a top-class right-back, *Soccer News* reported last Wednesday.

To meet that need, the club signed Brazilian player Cafu from Roma last week.

#### Madrid: the destination?

Real Madrid was the first club linked to Beckham's rumored move, sparked by the benching of the English team captain in a cru-



## Rumors Fly over Possible Beckham Defection

cial match in late April against that team by United manager Alex Ferguson.

A report published in the *Sun* this past Sunday claimed the Spanish soccer giant is ready to make a 40 million pound bid for Beckham. Statements from the English star have fueled speculation

that he will go to Real. "Any player would be honored to be spoken about by Real Madrid," he said. "They have great players and a great tradition."

Earlier this summer, Madrid's managing director Jorge Valdano confirmed Real wants to sign Beckham.

Valdano is Real's chief transfer negotiator and the man responsible for bringing superstars Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and Luis Figo to the club.

"The way Real Madrid has pulled off the biggest transfer market coups of the last few seasons, Beckham looks like the next big

project for us," he said. Another factor supporting a move by Beckham to Real is that they share sponsorship by Adidas, whose opinion could be crucial in the deal.

According to a report published in Changsha-based newspaper *Titan Sports* last week, Madrid is Beckham's first choice

and Milan his second. That report continued that the midfielder is not even considering moving to Barcelona because such a move would mean Beckham would have to forsake a guaranteed place in the Champions League with United for only possible UEFA Cup or even Intertoto competition with the Catalan side.

#### Why leave?

A United supporter since boyhood, Beckham signed with the club just two months after turning 16 and has since risen spectacularly through the ranks, making 394 appearances and scoring 85 goals. His long and short-passing technique and excellent free kicks have been key to United's success in both domestic and European football in recent years.

His dead-ball skills guided England to the 2002 World Cup finals with a last-minute free kick against Greece, while a penalty earned them a 1-0 group stage victory over Argentina – personal revenge after Beckham had been sent off against them at France 98.

His maturity as a player has meanwhile been helped by being appointed England captain, initially in November 2000 by caretaker manager Peter Taylor and subsequently by current boss Sven-Goran Eriksson. He signed a new, lucrative contract with United last year, which takes him through to 2005 at Old Trafford.

However, a sometimes difficult relationship between Beckham and head coach Sir Alex Ferguson reached new lows last season with the midfielder being struck above the eye by a football boot kicked by the furious coach in the dressing room after a FA Cup semi-final match on February 7, in which United was defeated by Arsenal at Old Trafford.

That incident was a major trigger of the recent transfer speculation, also fueled by rumors that Ferguson is upset with Beckham's high international profile as soccer player, celebrity and husband of former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham and wants him to concentrate more on matches and training than parties and fashion.

Beckham's popularity spans Europe and Asia, where the England captain was given a warm welcome during last year's World Cup in Japan and South Korea. That popularity brings with it substantial merchandising opportunities for both club and country that would be hard for the Spanish and Italian teams not to notice.

The midfielder, put on a six to eight week lay-off after breaking his hand in last month's friendly international match against South Africa, has been vacationing with his family in the US and East Asia. Monday's *Soccer News* said that Beckham would return to England today and soon after hold talks with Manchester United about his possible exit.

## Ferrero Crowned King of France

By Hou Mingxin

Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero and Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne each won their first grand slam titles at the French Open, held at Roland Garros in Paris from May 26 to June 8.

#### Long-held dream comes true for Spanish champ

Ferrero was crowned king of Roland Garros Sunday after he defeated Dutchman Martin Verkerk, 6-1, 6-3, 6-2, to win the men's title. "This is a dream come true. I am so happy that I don't know what to say," said Ferrero at the press conference after the match.

"When I was 12 years old, I came here for the first time, and I hoped that one day I would win the title here," the 23-year-old added. "These two weeks have been the most special in my life."

Ferrero, who says he draws his inspiration from his late mother, who died when he was

17, added, "She was there in the front row today."

The victory brought the Spaniard the top prize of 840,000 euros as well as 200 ATP Champions Race points. Even before the final match was held, Ferrero had secured the top position in the ATP rankings.

Known as an avid car collector, Ferrero said he did not plan to buy a new auto with this winnings. "Beforehand, I said I'd go out and buy an Aston Martin. But, I'm not so keen now, I won't rush out and do anything," he said.

The win was redemption for Ferrero, who, despite being the overwhelming favorite, lost the finals of last year's French Open to compatriot Albert Costa.

Martin Verkerk exceeded all expectations in reaching the final, overcoming former champion Spaniard Carlos Moya and Argentinian star Guillermo Coria. Verkerk, ranked 46th in the world, was just the eleventh unseeded player to reach the men's French Open final and the third man to do so in his Roland Garros debut.

"First I would say I never expected to stand here," Verkerk said at the trophy presentation ceremony after the match. "Ferrero deserved the victory. He played unbelievably well and he is a great champion," he added. The Dutchman's successful second place finish brought him

420,000 Euros and lifted his world ranking to No. 15.

#### Henin: victory for mother

Justine Henin-Hardenne won a place in tennis history last Saturday by beating compatriot Kim Clijsters 6-0, 6-4 in the French Open women's final to become the first Belgian grand slam champion. "It's a great moment for me today. I went for that win with all my heart," she told the crowd before devoting the victory to her deceased mother. "I want to dedicate this to my mum who is watching me from paradise, I'm sure she's very proud of me."

"When I came here with her 11 years ago [to watch the 1992 final] I said one day I would be here on this court. I think she gave me all the energy I needed today," Henin said.

It was the first grand slam final ever between two Belgians, making Belgium just the fourth country to have an all-country final in the history of the French Open since 1925, when the tournament went international. The match also snapped the streak of American players appearing in 11 consecutive Grand Slam finals.

Sisters Venus and Serena Williams have been dominating the women's Grand Slam circuit the past few years and the US has bagged 14 of the last 15 Grand Slam events.



French Open Champion Juan Carlos Ferrero vents frustration after losing a point in his semi-final match on June 6.

Xinhua Photo



By James Liu

The return of summer and recession of SARS means once again it is high season for beaches, barbeques and beer.

Beijing is a beer-loving town, hosting annual beer festivals since 1999 and for the past two years converting the Wangfujing pedestrian shopping street into a huge outdoor beer garden. How well those events will fare this year, under the shadow of SARS, is unclear, but regardless, there are plenty of places and choices for beer fans to satisfy their brew cravings.

#### History

Beer was introduced to China by Western traders and travelers in the 19th century. Initially enjoyed only by the privileged elite, beer has become so common that in most cities and towns around the country it is literally cheaper than water (of the bottled variety).

When Chinese first encountered beer, they did not know what to call it and there was no exact character to represent the golden beverage. Eventually, it was dubbed *píjiu*, *pi* sounding like the German word *bier*, while *jiu* means alcohol or spirit in Chinese. Locals were not initially taken with beer, when it was better known as "horse urine".

Until well into the 20th century, beer was prohibitively expensive, affordable for only a few foreign diplomats in Beijing. In 1935, a dozen bottles of beer cost four silver pieces, the same as half a ton of coal. Before 1929, over 90 percent of beer imported to Beijing was drunk by foreigners.

The first brewery in China was the Shuanghesheng Beer Company, founded right here in Beijing in 1915. Each year of its operation, the Shuanghesheng brewery cranked out over 3,000 tons of beer made from mineral water from the Yuquan mountains west of the city, hops imported from Czechoslovakia and malt shipped in from Denmark. In 1937, Shuanghesheng beer won a gold prize at the Panama World Fair, but later that year the brewery had to close when the Japanese invaded the city.

#### Present

Today, China is poised to overtake the US as the world's largest beer market, even though per capita beer consumption is relatively low. The domestic market is highly regionalized, with only a few huge companies such as Tsingtao able to operate on a national level.

The popularity of beer in Beijing means the market is relatively diverse, offering a wide range of imported, brand-name domestic and local beers. Imports, from American and European staples such as Budweiser, Carlsberg and Guinness to craft brews from different regions of the world, are almost all considerably more expensive than domestic beers.

Nearly every city in this whole country has its own local beer, ranging in price, flavor, style and overall quality. Beijing's major home brand is the massive Yanjing Beer, which has the highest output and profit and tax figures of all domestic beer-makers.

#### Yanjing Beer

Though competition is getting tighter, Yanjing is definitely still the king of the Beijing beer market. The corporation was started in 1980 and enjoys a 90 share of the local market and a 30 share of market in the whole northern China region.

Yanjing regular is the brewery's basic beer and the cheapest in town at just 1.5 yuan for the ubiquitous 640 milliliter bottles. Many restaurants and bars also sell Yanjing draft beer (*Yanjing chunsheng*) and gold label (*jingpin Yanjing*), higher-quality brews at higher prices of around 10 yuan per bottle. The company also makes low-alcohol, fruity beers such as pineapple and lemon flavored products that sell for around 2 yuan per can in local supermarkets.

#### Tsingtao Beer

The first Tsingtao brewery was a British-German venture established in 1903 in the company's namesake city in Shandong Province. Today, it is a giant in the industry, probably the only Chinese beer known widely abroad and one of the few domestic brands available throughout the country. Tsingtao Group General Manager Jin Zhiguo is now pushing to make his company one of the top ten



Photo by Aily

# Beer, Glorious Beer

beer brands in the world.

In the past few years, Tsingtao has taken aim at Yanjing and grown in popularity in the Beijing market. The cheapest Tsingtao product sells for 1.5 yuan for a 640 milliliter bottle, while the smaller bottles of regular Tsingtao common in local bars go for 10 to 25 yuan each, depending on location.

#### Zhujiang Beer

Founded in 1985, Zhujiang is the only major beer brand from southern China that can compete with the northern brands Tsingtao and Yanjing. Today, this company cranks out 500,000 tons of beer per year. Among its special products are draft beer, which does not undergo sterilization, and fruit-flavored brews. Zhujiang draft (*Zhujiang chunsheng*) is available at some restaurants and supermarkets around town, normally priced around 10 yuan for a 640 milliliter bottle.

#### Huanghe Beer

Also founded in 1985, the Huanghe beer group is Northwest China's largest beer maker. Huanghe is not widely available in Beijing, but is the main beer served at some local restaurants, where a 640 milliliter bottle of Huanghe draft (*Huanghe chunsheng*) normally fetches around 10 yuan.

#### Cool-spots

##### Champion Garden at The St. Regis

Possibly the first champagne garden in Beijing, the open-air pub at the St. Regis offers small bottles of domestic and imported beers for 20 yuan and up. The bar reopened last Friday and offers drinks, including summer cocktails, an extensive wine list, champagne and of course beer, along with delicious food from the summer menu organized by executive chef Charles Kneipp. The luxurious mood is enhanced by live musical performances.

##### Bier at Wangfujing

Germany's Bitburger beer is brewed the same way it was when the brewery was founded in 1817, resulting in a delicately tart and pleasantly bitter brew with a strong hop flavor. Today, this Bitburg-based brewery is one of Germany's biggest beer makers. To win some

of the local market, Bitburger has opened an 80-seat outdoor pavilion on Wangfujing that serves beer and other drinks. Regular Bitburger beer goes for 15 yuan for 330 milliliters, while the dark beer costs 20 yuan for the same amount.

#### Get Trapped at the Hidden Tree

The Hidden Tree on south Sanlitun bar street was one of the first western-style bars in this city and has a devoted following, in no small part because the bar specializes in outstanding Bel-

gian beers. Selection varies, but at most times there are at least 10 kinds of beer available, including such Belgian classics as Duvel and Chimay and the ultra-refreshing Hoegaarden wheat beer, most of which go for 30 to 40 yuan. With the back patio open, this is still one of the city's top spots to chill out and enjoy the fruits of fermented grain.

#### Health Concerns

Avoid beer before or after participating in sports, as alcohol can have negative effects on muscle power, speed and judgment.

People with stomach disorders should not drink beer because it can harm their stomach lining, while, like all alcohol, beer can also damage the liver.

Pregnant women need to stay away from beer because it can hinder their babies' brain development and continue to lay off beer while nursing because it can decrease milk production.

At the same time, beer has a good balance of minerals, with a high potassium and low sodium content that can actually make it beneficial to the body, if consumed in reasonable amounts.

Getting the most of your beer

All beer, regardless of price or type, will taste better if properly stored, poured and served. Here are some principles to re-

member to make sure your beer tastes its best:

#### The Glass

A proper beer glass should have a full shape with a curved top to trap the beer's aroma. Before pouring, make sure the glass is very clean. Chilling a glass in the fridge for an hour or so can add to drinking pleasure.

#### The Beer

Beer is at its very best when fresh from the brewery. Most beers do not improve with age - in fact, a long time in storage can sap a beer of its initial crispness of flavor.

#### The Temperature

Ideal temperature varies with personal preference and beer style. Most lager-style beers are better around typical household refrigerator temperatures (6 to 10 degrees), while keeping beer warm can break down some elements and cause beer to "skunk", or go bad.

#### The Pour

For the perfect pour, slosh some beer into the bottom of the glass to form a head. Then gently pour the beer directly onto the foam to break any large bubbles and pack the head. Leave for a short period to "age" the foam, then tilt the glass and fill carefully. Straighten the glass as it fills and keep pouring until the collar or head just froths over the rim of the glass.

## Suds for the Summer

By Joel Kirkhart

For many, it's always a good time for beer, but summer's heat makes even the common brew that much more refreshing. Unfortunately, most domestic beers are very common - weak of body, low in alcohol, flavor-challenged, merciless the next day and then there's that distinctive skunky smell.

Fortunately, thanks to reform and opening up, there are other options. Many restaurants and bars around town offer imported brews, from weak staples such as Budweiser to Belgian trap-pist ales. But, like foreign cars, there is normally a considerable price mark-up.

A cheaper way to enjoy a richer beer, and do one's part to keep SARS at bay, is to buy bottles and enjoy from the comfort of your own home. To aid our readers in finding real summer refreshment, fellow *Beijing Today* editor Tom Spearman and I volunteered our time and livers to sample some of the less common beers, mostly German, surprisingly available around town.

Regular 5 Star brand beer was our suds placebo, a decent, cheap local brew - "the official beer of state banquets." This

drinkable, weak beer is unlikely to offend, but neither will it draw raves. From there, we each gave up to five points for improvement, totaled in the short reviews below. Note that the winner was a dark horse that comes with our hearty recommendation. Cheers.

#### Bitburger Premium - 8.6 yuan for a small bottle - 5 total points

One of Germany's major beer brands, this brew won complements for its refreshing taste, clearly a sign of quality ingredients and brewing. It does, however, have a sharp flavor that may be too bitter for some and is unlikely to spark binge drinking.

#### Erdinger Weisbier - 20.8 yuan for 500 ml bottle - 6.5 points

This beer and the other Erdinger in the test were the most expensive, but warmly received. This is a traditional wheat beer, praised for its golden color, refreshing, lightly sweet taste and overall excellence. A great summer beer.

#### Qingdao Dark - 8.6 yuan for 640 ml bottle - 0 points

The only other domestic in the testing, this product of China's biggest beer maker is like a porter in terms of thickness and sugar content. Initial response was mixed, but then the cloying flavor and thickness overcame our testers. Spearman noted, "To drink this is to be reminded of the heights of terrible excess in which you will accept anything."

#### Coopers Original Pale Ale - 10.8 yuan for a small bottle - 4 total points

An Australian brand that has come onto the market relatively recently, this beer had us excited with its real ale smell and beautiful, golden color. While it went down smooth enough, both reviewers docked it for being a bit too gassy, light and plain. Not a bad choice, but for the money, there are better ones.

#### Hansa Pils - 8.6 yuan for a small bottle - 2 total points

Another German lager choice, this is probably the most widely available of all the beers in the test. It failed to impress, however, its light flavor and body described as "almost Chinese". It got points over 5 Star basi-

## Ich Bin Ein Paulaner

By Sarah Bai

There is definitely no shortage of watering holes to get beer in this city, but surprisingly few that sell fresh beer, or at least beer that varies from the average pale, barely-flavored options. The Paulaner Brauhaus in the Lufthansa Shopping Center/Kempinski Hotel complex offers both, and has been successfully doing so for over a decade.

Resident brewmeisters concoct two kinds of authentic, fresh, high-quality German beer. In fact, part of the attractive décor of the inside eating area is the copper brewing vats in which the beer is fermented and aged right there. Hard to get fresher than that.

The results are impressive. The light beer has a rich amber color, good head and a crisp taste that finds a nearly perfect balance between sweet and bitter. The other house brew is a dark beer, which has a complex flavor and nice body without being too thick. It has a rich finish, but is not heavy, nor over-malty and sugary as many dark beers are. Both have to be very high in the running for best beer in the city, though they are expensive, at 48 yuan for a half-liter of the dark and 45 yuan for the same amount of the regular.

Beer on its own is fine, but it can be even better with food. Paulaner offers many German classics, from starters of cheese, salad or soup to entrees including veal, beef, trout and a range of authentic sausages. Try the *Bayernischer wurstlermix*, the Bavarian sausage platter with sauerkraut and mashed potato. Six different kinds of sausages come on the plate, served with sharp mustard and tasty kraut and mild potatoes. The grilled pork sausage is especially delicious. At a price of 115 yuan per person, it's not cheap, but the sausages make a good match for the rich beers and taste of absolute quality.

Also worthy of recommendation is the farmer salad with feta and olives (55 yuan), a mixture of tomatoes, romaine lettuce and cucumber with smooth feta and tepid olives, their saltiness balanced nicely by a lightly sweet dill dressing. All orders start with a selection of excellent breads served with butter and two kinds of pork liver paste.

**Add:** Kempinski Hotel, Chaoyang **Open:** 11 am - 1 am **Tel:** 6415 5812 **Average cost:** 150 yuan per person

cally on odor alone.

#### Erdinger Dunkel - 20.8 yuan for 500 ml bottle - 6 points

This wheat beer from Erdingers is far darker than the brewery's regular weisbier. It has a nice head and is very drinkable, being surprising light for a dark brew, a point criticized by one of our testers.

Both agreed that in the world of dark beers, however, it is no Guinness.

#### Coopers Best Extra Stout - 10.8 yuan for small bottle - 7 points

Cooper's other offering in the test ended up edging out a surprise win. This dark horse in the test is a dark beer lover's kind of beer, not too sweet and slightly smoky, a stout through and through. While one sampler judged it a bit too sharp, it won universal praise for its high alcohol content. Cooper's stout is an excellent antidote to beer boredom and is sure to win over all but the most die-hard Yanjing addicts.

(All beers purchased at Jenny Lou's - some may not be available at most supermarkets.)

Photos by Wang Yong





## Exhibitions

## Xiao Hong Oil Painting

Xiao Hong's oil paintings are based on the figures and stories in the ancient times, featuring the culture of ancient China and modern world.

**Where:** Qin Gallery, Huaweili Enjoy Paradise1-1E (north of Beijing Curio City) Chaoyang  
**When:** June 13-30, 9:30 am - 7 pm  
**Admission:** free **Tel:** 8779 0461



Summer by Li Xiaoke

## The Summer Conscious Art Exhibition

Everyone must have some vivid memories about summer. This exhibition features works by artists including Li Xiaoke, Ma Haifang, Yang Gang, Fang Xiang, Dong Zhe and Lin Tianxing, all on the theme of summer.

**Where:** Creation Gallery, north end of Ritan Donglu **When:** June 13 - July 4, 10 am - 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8561 7570



Eight Female Soldiers Drowned in the River by Wang Xinwei

## Seven Works

Works by Ding Yi, Meng Huang, Wang Xingwei and Yan Lei.

**Where:** China Art Archives and Warehouse, Caochang Di, Chaoyang **When:** till June 28, 2-5 pm (Wednesday - Sunday) **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8456 5152



Chinese Maiden by Lin Fengmian

## Chinese Masters

This exhibition features some of China's most talented traditional painters, such as Qi Baishi, Zhang Daqian and Lin Fengmian. Also on display, master painters Li Xiongcai, Wu Guanzhong, Song Wenzhi, Cheng Shifa, Ya Ming and Huang Zhou.

**Where:** Wanfung Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie **When:** June 15-30, 10 am - 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6523 3320

## He Xuesheng

He Xuesheng paints a surreal



## Movies

## The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

Directed by Peter Jackson, starring Ian McKellen, Elijah Wood, Viggo Mortensen, Christopher Lee, Liv Tyler. The second chapter in the J.R.R. Tolkien saga, hobbits Frodo and Sam brave terrible dangers in an attempt to destroy the evil ring, while Aragorn, Legolas and their allies strive to rescue Pippin and Merry from the clutches of evil. The wizard Gandalf makes a miraculous return to aid in the struggle against the united towers of Saruman and Sauron. In Chinese  
**Where:** Local Cinemas **When:** till June 26

## In the Mood for Love (Huayang Nianhua)

Directed by Wong Kar-Wai, starring Maggie Cheung and Tony Leung. A beautifully wrought romance melodrama, set in the slums of 1960s Hong Kong, between two neighbors. They discover that their respective spouses are having an affair and find comfort in each other and later love. Chinese with English subtitles.

**Where:** Fountain Terrace, Hilton Hotel Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu **When:** June 13-14, 8 pm **Admission:** 50 yuan, includes a beer/nonalcoholic drink **Tel:** 6466 2288 ext. 7370 **Email:** rex@cherrylanemovies.com.cn

## Eight Women

Directed by Francois Ozon, starring Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert, Emmanuelle Beart and Fanny Ardant. The eight women of the title are Gaby, her two daughters, her mother, her sister, her sister-in-law, and her two maids. These characters are trapped together in a house during a snowstorm with one dead body (Marcel, Gaby's husband) and cut phone lines.

Tensions run high, with each woman suspecting the others of being the killer. French with Chinese Subtitle.

**Where:** Space for Imagination, 5 Xiwangzhuang Haidian **When:** June 14, 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6279 1280

## Sports

## Secret Valley

It is called the secret valley, because it is not visible unless one climbs the mountains that surround it. This walk is rich in dramatic rocks and riverbeds, fruit trees and history. The valley was once home to monks. There are two ruins, one on each side of the loop.

**Where:** Changping, north-east of Beijing **When:** June 15, meet 8:30 am outside Starbucks, Lido, return 5 pm How much: adults 150 yuan, children 100 yuan **Tel:** 13701003694 **Email:** bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk

## Shaolin Kung Fu

Wang Xiaojun, a senior instructor at Beijing Sports University, has been practicing Chinese Traditional Martial arts for 27 years. He will teach basic techniques, self defense and combat training in Shaolin Kung Fu. First trial class is always free. English translation provided.

**Where:** Opera Photo Studio, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu **When:** June 15, 7-8:30 pm and June 18, 5:30-7 pm **Admission:** 90 yuan for every class **Tel:** 6421 2174

## Jams

## Happy Hour

Treelounge has launched a buy-one-get-one-free happy hour on weekdays. Outdoor seating area and a good range of drinks.

**Where:** Treelounge, Dongsanhuan Lu, south of Agricultural Exhibition Center **When:** 6-8 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 13511 010967

## Clicquot Connection

Come and enjoy Veuve Clicquot Champagne in a fabulous environment. Special offer for the night is 120 yuan for two glasses of Veuve Clicquot (7:30 - 10:30 only) with complimentary canapés. Live jazz music by Lance Goerner (trumpet), Moreno (piano), "Louis" Liu Wu (bass), Izumi (drums) and Dilia (vocals).

**Where:** Neo Lounge, 99 Xingfucun Zhonglu **When:** June 18 **Tel:** 6416 1077

## Big Easy Fourth Anniversary

The Big Easy celebrates four years with an anniversary dinner, all-night happy hour (buy one drink, get one free) and the Rhythm Dogs featuring Humble Mike and 'Sugar Mama' Jacqui Staton.

**Where:** Big Easy **When:** June 18, 6 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6508 6776

## All Day Enjoyment

Side by Side spins a mind-blowing set of Bruce, rock-and-roll, and pop every day at Side by Side. Violin every night between 7 and 8.

**Where:** 56 Sanlitun Beijing, Chaoyang **Tel:** 6416 4191

## Along the River

Wang Juan plays guitar and sings songs from 10 to 12 Thursday night. On Friday evening, Footprint, a band from Xinjiang. Wan Xiaoli and Xiao He treat guests to their own music on Saturday evening.

**Where:** River Club, 17 Dongdaqiao Xiejie **When:** 6:30 pm - 2:30 am **Tel:** 6594 4714

## Fashion Show

Professional models from Beijing and Dalian hit the stage at Milan Club from 10 to 11 every night, showing recent fashions from China and abroad.

**Where:** 62 Sanlitun Beijing **When:** 12 pm - 2 am **Tel:** 6416 4560

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By Guo Yuandan / Helen Hong

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Machang Dao (top and center)  
Zhang Xueliang's former residence (above)



Chengdu Dao

## A Quick Trip to Tianjin



Three views of the New World Astor Hotel (above)  
Yueweixian Restaurant (below)



By Zhang Bo

Tianjin has much to offer as a weekend getaway for Beijingers. Just one and a half hours away by express train, this port city is very different in both appearance and demeanor from its inland neighbor. Famous for its delicious seafood and other assorted delicacies, there is also much to see, including some well preserved examples of colonial architecture.

### Western architecture in six daos

In Tianjin, north-south streets are called *lu*, while those running east-west are all called *dao*. There are six daos that are famous for their old western style architecture; Machang Dao (马场道), Munan Dao (睦南道), Dali Dao (大理道), Chongqing Dao (重庆道), Chengdu Dao (成都道) and Changde Dao (常德道).

Along these streets, as well as British, French, German and Italian architecture, places of interest include the former residences of Yuan Shikai, who succeeded Sun Yatsen as the first president of the Republic of China, and patriotic Guomindang general Zhang Xueliang. Some of the old western style buildings are occupied by restaurants, giving diners an opportunity to sample some local culinary treats and examine the old-style architecture at the same time.

Machang Dao and Chengdu Dao are two highlights among the six daos. Machang Dao is a center of traditional Tianjin culture, while Chengdu Dao comes alive at night with numerous bars and clubs.

### Room with a view

Built in 1863 overlooking the Haihe River, the New World Astor Hotel (Lishunde Dafandian) was the first hotel in China officially designated to accommodate foreigners. The hotel, which includes among its list of distinguished guests Sun Yatsen, the founding father of modern China, and US President Herbert Hoover, boasts many historic relics, such as a portrait of Empress Dowager Cixi and a phonograph used by last emperor of the Qing Dynasty Puyi.

The four star New World Astor is made up of an old and a new building. Rooms in he old building feature high ceilings and wooden floors, and cost 370 yuan per day for a standard room, cheaper than those in the new wing. *Where: 33 Taierzhuang Lu (台儿庄路), Heping District (和平区).*  
*Tel: 022-23366188*

### Teahouse comedy

The comic dialogue known as xiangshuo, or cross-talk, is a specialty

of Tianjin, as personified by the city's best known exponent of the art, the late Ma Sanli. Several teahouses along Street in Heping District, such as Yanle Teahouse (燕乐茶社), Zhonghua Quyu (中华曲苑) and Jinbojue Teahouse (金伯爵茶社), feature regular cross-talk performances. At the door of Yanle Teahouse, playbills are posted on a red board and admission is six yuan. The theater is small and simple, with a stage only slightly raised above the auditorium. *Where: 66 Rongji Dajie (荣吉大街), Heping District. Open: from 2 pm, Tuesday and Thursday.*

### Dining in Tianjin

#### Fisherman's Wharf (渔夫码头)

This restaurant offers a huge variety of seafood, which diners can select themselves from the glass tanks. Specialties include Quick-fried octopus (爆八爪鱼) with cheese, ginger and shallots, and Baogong braised fish (包公鱼).

*Where: Hongqi Nanlu (红旗南路), Nankai District (南开区).*  
*Tel: 022-23688888*

#### Yueweixian Restaurant (粤唯鲜)

Yueweixian is both a restaurant and a museum, hence its description by the writer Feng Jicai as "an edible museum."

Founded by Zhang Lianzhi, manager of the restaurant, the museum features a collection of cultural relic including old sculptures, musical instruments, furniture, harnesses, archways and bronze mirrors. The first floor of the restaurant houses Feng's collection stones and sculptures from all over China.

*Where: 283-285, Hebei Lu (河北路), Heping District. Tel: 022-23398888*

#### Jiuzhou Restaurant (九州饭庄)

Located in Yangcun Village, on the Beijing - Tianjin expressway, the restaurant's specialty is boiled fish with corn cake (贴饼子熬鱼) which uses a kind of small fish living in the Haihe River.

*Where: Yangcun Toll Gate, Beijing - Tianjin expressway (京津公路杨村收费), Wuging District (武清区).*

### Tianjin Snacks

Tianjin is famous snacks such as goubuli baozi (狗不理包子), a kind of steamed pork bun, guifaxiang mahua (桂发祥麻花), or fried dough twists, and erduoyan mahua (耳朵眼炸糕), a kind of sweet, fried snack. all of which can be found on Shipin Jie (食品街), in Nankai district.

*Getting there:* Express trains leaves Beijing Railway Station for Tianjin every other hour, taking one and a half hours (30 yuan).

*Tip:* Tianjin streets are narrow, torturous and frequently one way. Do not drive unless you really have to!

### WALL WALKS

## Qiangzilu Great Wall

By Huang Lisha/Ji Xue Lu

Qiangzilu Great Wall stands seventy kilometers east of Miyun. Passing Qiangzilu, Guanshang and Quanshuihe villages, this 115 kilometer section of wall is surrounded by a maze of hills and has long been a place of key strategic importance. First built during the reign of Emperor Hongwu (1368 - 1398) of the Ming Dynasty, it has been the backdrop to many important battles at various times throughout the Ming and Qing dynasties.

### Qiangzi Lucheng

One of the closest frontier passes to Beijing, large garrisons of troops were stationed at Qiangzilu in the Ming and Qing dynasties. The village of Qiangzilu now stands where the soldiers were once stationed, at what was known as Lucheng (路城). The original Lucheng had gates on the east, west and south sides. The walls were built of huge stones and formed a rectangle. Today only the restored west wall and ten meters of the ruins of the east wall can be seen.

### Guanshang village and Qiangzi Xiongguan

Guanshang (关上村) is one and a half kilometers east of Qiangzilu. During the Ming Dynasty, the village was an important pass named Qiangzi Xiongguan (墙子雄关). Entirely destroyed by a severe flood in 1900, only the north gate still stands there. A slab of white marble hangs from the top of the gate inscribed with the characters "Qiangzi Xiongguan."

### Quanshuihe and special carved bricks

About two kilometers north of Qiangzi Xiongguan is the village of Quanshuihe (泉水河村). The Great Wall here is connected with that of Simatai, and stretches all the way to Shanhaiguan, on the Bohai Sea. This 10-kilometer section of wall is very well preserved, and features two beacon towers and four watch towers. It makes a 90-degree turn here, in one of the most magnificent stretches of the Qiangzilu Great Wall. Another feature of this part of the wall is the actual bricks, many of which are carved with Chinese characters. These carvings are rich in historical information, such as how many troops were stationed there at a particular time and details about those who participated in the construction of the wall.

*Getting there:* Take 101 State Highway as far as Miyun, then drive east along the Miyun-Xinglong road (密云-兴隆) to Qiangzilu and Guanshang villages. Drive a further two kilometers north, and you will come to Quanshuihe Village. An alternative is to take the Chengde train to Qiangzilu.



Qiangzi Xiongguan



The wall at Qiangzilu  
Photos by Ji Xue Lu

### MUSEUM WATCH



Three-colour-glaze Avalokitesvara statue from Liao Dynasty.



Glazed ornament - end of Jin Dynasty.

## Liao Jin City Wall Museum

By Guo Yuandan

The Liao Jin City Wall Museum is built on the ruins of a sluice-gate in what was then known as Zhongdu, the capital of Jin Dynasty (1153 - 1215).

Virtually all vestiges of the former capital disappeared during the following Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. The ruins of the sluice gate are only known architectural remains of the ancient city.

Built 850 years ago under the south city wall of Zhongdu, the sluice gate was discovered in 1990. Built to allow sewage to flow out under the city wall, the gate lies five meters underground and connected via a culvert with the Liangshui River, 50 meters to the south. Built of wood and stone, the lowermost layer is pine, over which lies a layer of stone slabs, fixed with iron brackets.

The entire structure is a valuable resource for studying water conservancy and such facilities of the period. As well as the ruins of the sluice gate, there are relics found in the Beijing area from the Warring States Period (BC 256 - 221) through to the Ming and Qing dynasties, including bronzes, stone carvings, brick and paintings. *Where: 40 Yulin Xiaoku, Fengtai Open: 8: 30 am - 4:30 pm Admission: 5 - 10 yuan Tel: 6305 4990*



Artist's impression of the sluice gate.